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16-PAGE SPORT SECTION

ALL THE HIGHLIGHTS OF A SPECTACULAR WEEKEND'S SPORT INCLUDING WALES' FIVE NATIONS VICTORY AND NEWCASTLE'S FA CUP SEMI-FINAL WIN



CHAMPAGNE BREAKS FOR 1999

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Nato hits Serb troops as fears rise for 100,000 'disappeared'

THE WAR in the Balkans grew fiercer yesterday, with more bombings, more deaths and more reports of Serb atrocities, and scant evidence that any solid diplomatic initiative was in the offing - or that 19 days of air bombardment was breaking President Slobodan Milosevic's determination to resist.

Though it scaled back missile and bomb attacks on Serbia proper because of the Orthodox Easter, Nato extended night raids on Pristina into the morning hours, aiming at munitions dumps, oil facilities and radio relay stations and Yugoslav troops in the field. Bad weather hampered operations but the Yugoslav media said three civilians, among them a three-year-old girl, died in Mirovac, north Kosovo.

Alliance political leaders pointed to the dispatch of new firepower, including the British aircraft-carrier *Invincible* and

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

Yesterday "only" 4,000 refugees crossed the newly re-opened border into Albania. Western relief agencies are braced for heavy inflows this week. Every tale by terrified escapees, every shred of circumstantial evidence, suggests that Serb repression in the province continues unabated.

The most sinister mystery is the whereabouts of 100,000 - perhaps double that - "missing" ethnic Albanian males of fighting age, who have been separated from their families by the Serbs or failed to cross the border as refugees. In the absence of facts, theories abound: that they have been herded into camps by the Serbs or have taken to the hills to help scattered units of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) still operating as partisans against the Serbs - or that they have simply been massacred.

In Brussels, Jamie Shea, Nato spokesman, produced pictures of newly turned earth at Pusto Selo, south-west of Pristina, which he said could be evidence of a mass grave and which would be examined by the international tribunal in The Hague investigating war crimes in former Yugoslavia.

In London, Robin Cook, Foreign Secretary, said as many as 400,000 Kosovars were living on hills and mountains in Kosovo without food or water - another catastrophe to add to the plight of the 500,000 Kosovars who have fled into Macedonia and Albania. "It's still a place of terror," Mr Cook said. "Villages are still being burned, people are still being forced out at gunpoint."

Albanians who gathered in Trafalgar Square shared Mr Cook's opinion, taunting several hundred pro-Serb demonstrators who were calling for an end to the bombing war.

"We are begging Nato to send in ground troops or arm the KLA, because the situation on the ground is getting worse by the minute," one Albanian, Meriton Krasniqi, said.

But the land war public opinion increasingly supports is officially still not on the cards. Both Mr Cook and Mr Blair again denied suggestions Nato was quietly reaching a ground war by sending the extra troops and weapons into Albania, the likely launch-pad - an impression heightened by Tirana announcing it was placing the country's ports, airspace and other infrastructure under Nato control. A ground war "would be a massive undertaking and would take time to prepare", the Prime Minister told *Newstreak*.

Mr Cook did leave open the possibility that the alliance



The Serbian Orthodox Patriarch, Pavle, praying during Easter liturgy in Belgrade yesterday *Petar Kujundzic*

could enter Kosovo uninvited if Serb troops there had been so weakened by air attacks that they offered no resistance or had been pulled out. But that was a hypothesis "some way down the road".

On the diplomatic front too,

progress is minimal. Madeleine Albright, US Secretary of State, today meets Nato colleagues in Brussels and tomorrow holds talks in Oslo with Igor Ivanov, Foreign Minister of Russia, which has tried to broker a compromise to halt the bombing.

Neither occasion is likely to produce a breakthrough. Russian rhetoric has cooled since Friday's mutterings by President Boris Yeltsin about a European, even a world, war if Nato launched a ground invasion. But Moscow's mood will

not have been improved by Hungary's refusal to allow transit to part of what was described as a relief convoy on the basis that it contained some armoured vehicles and was carrying fuel, both proscribed by UN sanctions.

Men of God receive their call-up papers

IN THE church of Alexander Nevsky yesterday, the icon-cleaner had a tough job. After every five Orthodox faithful kissed the painting of the victor of the River Neva - 13th-century conqueror of the Knights of the Teutonic Order - the middle-aged lady in black would step forward and wipe the icon with rubbing alcohol to prepare it for more lips. Some of the Belgrade worshippers kissed the icon six times, others knelt before it, many wept. The sublime chants, the incense, the smoke-blackened saints who stared gloomily down at us from the dark apse; you could understand how the Orthodox Easter induced a kind of willing suspension of disbelief. Nato refused an Easter ceasefire. God did not.

But in the priests' office behind the basilica, Father Branslav Jelic was wrestling with the old problem of rendering under Caesar those things which are Caesar's. On Good Friday, the 32-year-old priest had received his call-up papers for the Yugoslav army - the very same defence forces that had only a day earlier called upon the Orthodox Church to support its struggle against Nato. "I must go to the draft office



ROBERT FISK IN BELGRADE

and tell them that I cannot join because I am an Orthodox priest," he said. "An applicant for the priesthood cannot kill anybody and if a priest kills he cannot be a priest any more."

At the entrance to the church, I had taken a copy of the Patriarch's one-page Easter message to the Orthodox with its admonition in red print: "Friend - Believe There Is Hope." A soldier who dies will go to Heaven if he is a Christian, it announced. A soldier who finds an unchristened comrade gravely wounded can baptise him on the battlefield and assure him a place in paradise. If the wounded man survives, then a priest can complete the process of entering the Holy Orthodox faith. To those celebrating a more

TURN TO PAGE 3

Sports orgy strains couch potatoes' eyes

MANY MEMBERS of the nation's workforce, mainly male, will prise themselves off their sofas this morning and stumble square-eyed into offices after an unprecedented weekend of televised sport.

A confluence of top sporting events including the Grand National kept much of the population indoors, rousing itself only to collect another six-pack or hunt for the remote control.

BY KATHY MARKS

Parks, garden centres and supermarkets were virtually deserted on Saturday and yesterday. Bookmakers, by contrast, were in seventh heaven; William Hill estimated yesterday that a record £100m would have been wagered by the end of play last night.

For sports fans, the embarrassment of riches was less lit-

eral, and provoked many an agonising quandary.

The Grand National at Aintree - won for the first time since 1975 by an Irish horse, Bobbyjo, ridden by Paul Carberry - clashed with Scotland's 36-22 victory over France in the Five Nations Rugby in Paris on Saturday afternoon. There was also the usual round of league football matches.

On Saturday evening, hard-

core viewers were forced to choose between the US golf Masters in Augusta and the World Boxing Organisation bout in which Naseem Hamed successfully defended his featherweight title against Paul Ingle in Manchester.

Yesterday the schedule was even more hectic, starting with two FA Cup semi-finals which saw Manchester United and Arsenal draw 0-0 and Newcastle

United beat Tottenham Hotspur 2-0. Both games clashed with England's one-day cricket match against India. In Scotland, Rangers won their Cup semi-final to ensure an Old Firm clash against Celtic.

Yesterday, nearly back-to-back, came Wales's last-minute 32-31 win against England in the Five Nations, which gave the championship to Scotland, followed by the Brazilian Grand

Prix and the US Masters final round, with Jose Maria Olazabal, Colin Montgomerie and Greg Norman strongly fancied.

If predictions prove correct once the final sums are done, it will have been the biggest betting weekend on record. Cash wagers just on the Tote at Aintree added up to more than £1m, and total punts on the race are estimated at £70m.

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TODAY'S TELEVISION
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Australia	£56.00
Belgium	£60.00
Canada	£22.50
Denmark	£11.00
France	£16.00
Germany	£18.00
Italy	£18.00
Japan	£18.00
Spain	£18.00
Sweden	£18.00
Switzerland	£18.00
Turkey	£18.00
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ALLURE
FOR MEN

ALLURE
CHANEL

WAR IN THE BALKANS

"Get out. Go to your Bill Clinton. This is Serb land"
**Masked gunman
evicting ethnic
Albanians from Kosovo**

"I think the penny is now beginning to drop in Belgrade that we can keep going longer than he can"
Robin Cook

"Even if we had ground troops right now, this still wouldn't be the right time to put them in"
Nato military official

"We counted 26 bodies. We buried some, but we were afraid to be on the streets if the police came"
Gani Randonic, refugee

"You will probably see some movements on the diplomatic front"
**Javier Solana,
Nato Secretary General**

"We are very concerned about the fate of displaced persons in Kosovo itself"
**Jamie Shea,
Nato spokesman**

Kosovars fear cull of the young men

AS THE brutality and suffering in Kosovo worsens, another horror appears to be unfolding, with reports that thousands of young men have been separated from their families, taken away, and possibly executed.

The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, said yesterday that he believed almost 400,000 people inside Kosovo were in hiding, cold and starving, in the mountains. His account was based on a telephone conversation with Hashim Thaqi, one of the leaders of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

Mr Thaqi has his own agenda, which is to deepen the West's involvement. And with 1.5 million people on the move, out of Kosovo's population of 1.8 million, it is difficult for observers to monitor the ethnic cleansing carried out by Slobodan Milosevic's forces.

But Kosovo refugees now in Albania and Macedonia have been consistently spoken of as being rounded up and taken away by Serb militiamen.

Mr Cook's concern, shared by Nato, is based on the situation in the refugee camps, where aid workers have noted the fact that adult males comprise only 10 per cent of the intake. It means at least 100,000 men are missing,

THE MISSING MEN

BY KIM SENGUPTA

though the figure may be much higher.

Some of these men may have decided to stay in Kosovo to fight in the ranks of the KLA. But there is now widespread apprehension about the fate of the rest. Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, said that President Milosevic's regime will be brought before war crimes tribunals for any crimes committed against the Kosovo Albanians.

Nato's fears have received some confirmation with reports of mass graves. The alliance yesterday released satellite pictures purporting to show what could be the site of a mass grave in the central town of Oranovac.

The alliance said last week that it believed large-scale killings by Serb authorities were taking place. Natos's spokesman, Jamie Shea, said it was up to the International Criminal Tribunal, set up in The Hague, to investigate the matter in the future.

The West's fears are based on past experience of the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia. In the sum-

mer of 1995, after over-running the eastern town of Srebrenica, the Bosnian Serb army separated men from their families and killed as many of them as they could.

The ruthless operation was designed to make sure they never joined the Bosnian government army - as well as demonstrating the Serb obsession with halting the growth of the Muslim population. At the time, most governments in the West regarded the claims of Serb atrocities as propaganda.

Kosovo refugees have given details of where a number of mass graves containing young men are sited. One is near Podujevo, in the north of the province, a former KLA stronghold. More than 200 men are said to have been shot there.

Other sites are at Malakusa, where there are reports of shootings and burnings. There are said to have been further killings at Pastasel, Velitza Krusa, Suva Reka, Kosovo Polje and Malisevo.

The refugees have made other claims that mirror the grim events of the Bosnian

conflict, which pitted Serbs, Muslims and Croats against each other. While the men have been taken away, Kosovo women are said to have been raped at checkpoints. Many of the victims have been too ashamed, it is said, to report what happened to aid workers.

There are also allegations that the Serbs have been setting up "rape camps", where their victims have been shot and buried, after being imprisoned and abused. A Pentagon spokesman, Kenneth Bacon, spoke of "an eerie and disturbing echo of instances of rape and killing of women during the Bosnian war".

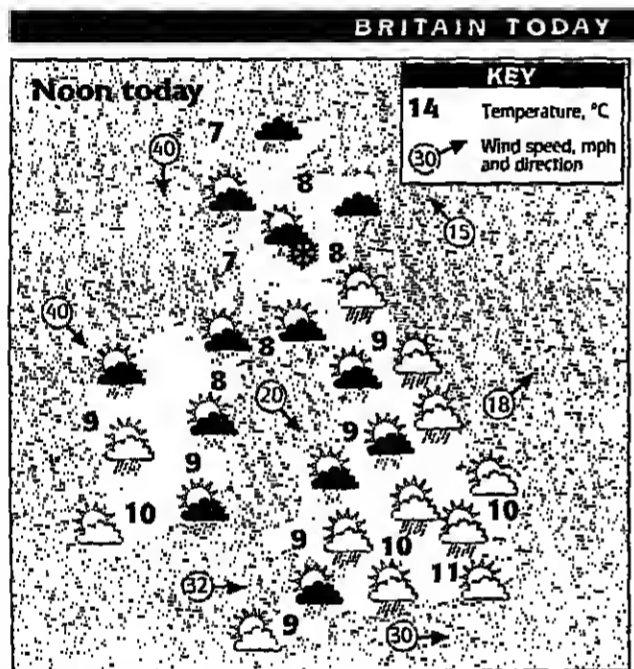
Unlike at the time of the Bosnian war, the West is now prepared to accept the worst possible reports about the behaviour of Serb forces, even if the numbers mentioned are treated with caution.

There is no intrinsic reason, say observers, why the Serb forces should have changed their ways.

For Nato, the reports are another reminder of the problems of its current strategy. Not only are air strikes failing to stop the abuse of the civilian population, there is a major lack of knowledge about what exactly is going on in Kosovo.



Tony Benn leads a march in London yesterday against the Nato bombing of Yugoslavia. The march, from the Embankment to Trafalgar Square, was organised by the Committee for Peace in the Balkans



FORECAST

General situation: England and Wales will be cool and blustery with sun and showers. Most of the showers will be in the west at first, but they will be more widespread by the afternoon with local thunder. Scotland will start mainly dry with isolated showers, but showers in the far north will spread southwards in the afternoon, and a strong north-westerly wind will pick up towards evening. Northern Ireland will have frequent showers and a strengthening wind.

London, E Anglia, E England: Some sunny spells but showers breaking out by the afternoon. A fresh west to south-west wind. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F).

SE, Cent & SW England, Channel: Dry and sunny, some heavy showers. Some coastal areas will stay dry. A strengthening westerly wind. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F).

Midlands, NE England: A bright start but showers will develop, some turning heavy. A moderate to fresh westerly wind. Max temp 9-11C (48-52F).

Wales, Cent & NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Windy with brief sunny spells and showers. Some heavy and perhaps merging to give a longer spell of rain. A freshening west to north-west wind. Max temp 8-11C (46-52F).

NE & SE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen: Sunshine and showers. A light west to north-west wind will freshen later. Max temp 8-10C (46-50F).

SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: Isolated showers in the morning, but becoming heavier and more prolonged rain in the afternoon. A strengthening north to north-west wind with gales in the west later. Max temp 7-9C (45-48F).

N Ireland: Windy with showers. Some heavy and prolonged with a risk of thunder. Drier in the west later. A strong to gale north-west wind. Max temp 9-11C (48-52F).

BRITAIN TODAY

KEY

Temperature, °C

Wind speed, mph and direction

Lighting Up

Location	8.00pm	to	6.28am
Belfast	8.00pm	to	6.15am
Birmingham	8.01pm	to	6.20am
Bristol	8.16pm	to	6.18am
Glasgow	7.51pm	to	6.11am
Manchester	8.04pm	to	6.15am
Newcastle	8.04pm	to	6.09am

HIGH TIDES

Location	AM	HT	PM	HT
Avonmouth	4.37	10.6	5.10	11.0
Cork	3.10	3.7	3.37	3.7
Dartmouth	2.58	4.2	3.46	4.5
Dover	8.54	2.5	2.22	5.9
Dun Laoghaire	9.32	3.4	10.13	3.6
Edinburgh	2.20	5.0	2.17	4.4
Greenwich	10.55	2.8	10.51	2.9
Harwich	9.38	3.3	9.57	3.3
Holyhead	8.17	4.7	8.57	4.8
Hull (Humber est)	4.06	7.2	4.13	7.4
Kings Lynn	4.21	5.1	4.30	5.8
Leith	12.27	4.5	-	-
Liverpool	6.00	7.9	6.36	8.0
Marazion	3.51	5.4	4.24	5.6
Newquay	2.50	5.9	3.22	5.6
Portsmouth	4.14	1.3	5.06	1.4
Purport	9.16	3.8	9.56	4.1
Pwllheli	5.58	3.8	6.29	3.7
Scarborough	1.58	4.3	2.09	4.7
Wick	8.46	2.8	8.51	2.9

Height measured in metres

YESTERDAY

EXTREMES

Warmest: Farnham 14C (57F)
Coldest: (day) L. Glasnevin 8C (46F)
Wettest: Wick 3.4 mm
Sunniest: Dorchester 8.1 hrs
For 24hrs to 2pm Sunday

Location	Sun	Rain	Max	Min
Aberdeen	8.6	0	14	5.7
Anglesey	9.4	5.2	12	5.4
Armagh	7.0	2.5	11	5.2
Belfast	6.8	0.3	11	5.2
Birmingham	5.8	0.5	14	5.7
Bournemouth	5.4	0	15	5.9
Bristol	7.9	1.0	13	5.7
Buxton	6.6	0.5	11	5.2
Cardiff	6.7	0	14	5.7
Clacton	5.4	0.3	15	5.9
Cromer	7.9	2.5	11	5.2
Edinburgh	7.9	0.5	13	5.2
Exmouth	7.9	0.5	13	5.2
Fishguard	10.5	1.0	10	5.0
Glasgow	7.9	2.3	11	5.2
Hastings	0	0.3	13	5.5
Hove	0.3	0	12	5.4
Jersey	1.6	0.3	13	5.5
Isle of Wight	1.6	0.3	13	5.5
Leeds	5.3	0.5	13	5.5
Leicester	0	0.1	8	4.6
Littlehampton	1.2	0.3	12	5.4
London	2.8	0.3	16	6.1
Lowestoft	3.8	0.3	15	5.9
Manchester	3.7	4.8	11	5.2
Morecambe	6.1	0.3	13	5.4
Newcastle	8.5	3.0	12	5.4
Newquay	3.7	0.3	15	5.9
Norwich	5.4	0	15	5.9
Orford	8.8	0.3	13	5.5
Papa-nu-ye	6.7	0	14	5.7
Salcombe	6.7	1.0	13	5.5
Scarborough	6.7	1.0	13	5.5
Stretton	0	0.3	11	5.2
Swansea	4.7	0.3	15	5.9
Tenby	9.2	2.5	12	5.4
Torquay	7.9	0	18	6.4
Weymouth	6.5	0.3	14	5.7

24 hours to 2pm (GMT) Saturday
Information by PA WeatherCentre



BRIEFING: DAY 19

Weather has been better than expected and Nato air strikes continue around the clock.

Nato says the air campaign will soon be augmented by 24 US Apache attack helicopters in Albania for use against Yugoslav tanks and armour. The helicopters could be in operation in a matter of days.

Over the past 24 hours, there have been 52 Nato-led flights into Macedonia and 56 flights into Albania with food, water, medical supplies and tents for the refugees.

Six British Harrier GR7 jump jets engaged in missions over Kosovo. Four bombed a fuel dump and a military radio relay near Brindza.

About 1,500 to 2,000 Italian troops will begin to be deployed tomorrow as part of Operation Allied Harbour.

Agreement has been reached to improve sanitation at Brindza site, 300 portable toilets will be bought.

1,500 packets of crisps, 230,000 chocolate bars, 5,200 ready-made meals, 10,000 loaves, 5 pallets of apples, and 3 pallets of tinned mackerel have been distributed.

OUTLOOK

All areas will become much colder than recently with a strong north to north-westerly wind adding to the chill. The south and west will have sunny spells and showers, the showers turning increasingly wintry. Northern and eastern areas will be cloudier with some longer spells of rain and sleet.

TRAVEL

London: A12 Green Man Roundabout, Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 31st December.

Bristol: M5 J18-19. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 29th June 2001.

Warwickshire: M42 Between J10 Tamworth services and J9 Sutton Coldfield. Roadworks and contraflow. Until 22nd April.

South Yorkshire: M1 Between J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6109) & J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6178). Sheffield. Contraflow in contraflow to two lanes southbound. Until 21st November 2000.

Gloucestershire: A40 Lansdown Rd, Cheltenham. Closed due to roadworks around. Diversion in place. Until 1st June.

Co. Antrim: A1 Kingsway, Dunsurry. Roadworks, various lane restrictions. Until 1st August.

Derbyshire: A5 Between Derby Southern Bypass (A50) and Shadowford Rd roundabout. East of Abington. Contraflow for work on new A50. Until 15th October.

AA Roadwatch: Call 0388 461777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

RAIN OR SHINE...

POOR WEATHER, the World Cup and the strong pound led to a leveling-off in visitor numbers to tourist attractions last year. Members of the British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers and Attractions reported 64 million visitors in 1998 - no more than in 1997.

"1998 was a difficult year for many members but we remain cautiously optimistic for 1999," said David Howell, chairman of the association.

High G is slow moving but will maintain its central pressure. Low W will drift only gradually south-eastwards

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Cloudy, drizzle, rain, fog, hail, ice, rain, snow, sun, sunny, showers, sleet, snow, ss, sunshowers, 11 thunder. Most recent multiple figure. Most local time.

Abidjan	24.7	11	52	Kuala Lumpur	27.1	10	52	Port Stanley	16.41	12	54
Algiers	22.7	12	54	La Paz	13.55	55	Prague	12.94	12	54	
Algeria	20.68	14	52	Lagos	23.91	10	Amman	23.91	10	52	
Amman	10.50	9	48	London	23.12	11	Brussels	15.59	10	52	
Ankara	16.61	10	52	Liban	23.73	10	Cardiff	15.59	10	52	
Antananarivo	0.32	13	55	Los Angeles	17.63	11	San Jose	25.77	10	52	
Arad	16.64	10	52	Madrid	19.58	10	Seoul	26.79	10	52	
Athens	16.64	10	52	Moscow	19.66	10	Stockholm	10.68	10	52	
Atlanta	15.77	10	52	Munich	21.70	10	Sydney	11.52	10	52	
Auckland	16.94	11	52	Nairobi	14.51	10	Taipei	26.79	10	52	
Bahra	29.84	22	81	Rangoon	31.88	10	Tokyo	26.79	10	52	
Bangkok	26.79	11	52	Rio de Janeiro	37.99	10	Yokohama	26.79	10	52	
Barcelona	17.22	10	52	Rosario	22.72	10	Shanghai	20.68	10	52	
Belfast	16.94	11	52	Sao Paulo	25.86	10	Singapore	32.90	10	52	
Berlin	17.22	10	52	Santiago	29.84	10	St Pauli Bay	15.59	10	52	
Bombay	27.72	10	52	Sao Paulo	19.56	10	Strasbourg	10.61	10	52	
Buenos Aires	15.59	10	52	Singapore	28.92	10	Sydney	27.10	10	52	
Burkina Faso	15.59	10	52	Sofia	4.39	10	Taipei	26.79	10	52	
Burundi	15.59	10	52	Stockholm	8.46	10	Tokyo	26.79	10	52	
Butte	15.59	10	52	Switzerland	10.50	10	Toronto	8.46	10	52	
Calcutta	27.72	10	52	Taipei	23.73	10	Toronto	8.46	10	52	
Canberra	15.59	10	52	Taipei	17.63	11	Toronto	8.46	10	52	
Cape Town	15.59	10	52	Taipei	17.63	11	Toronto	8.46	10	52	
Cardiff	15.59	10	52	Taipei	17.63	11	Toronto	8.46	10	52	
Caracas	27.72	10	52	Taipei	17.63	11	Toronto	8.46	10	52	
Casablanca	20.68	10	52	Taipei	17.63	11	Toronto	8.46	10	52	
Chicago	15.59	10	52	Taipei	17.63	11	Toronto	8.46	10	52	
Christchurch	15.59	10	52	Taipei	17.63	11	Toronto	8.46	10	52	
Cologne	15.59	10	52	Taipei	17.63	11	Toronto	8.46	10	52	
Copenhagen	15.59	10	52	Taipei	17.63	11	Toronto	8.46	10	52	
Cairo	15.59	10	52	Taipei	17.63	11	Toronto	8.46	10	52	
Calcutta	15.59	10	52	Taipei	17.63	11	Toronto	8.46	10	52	
Canberra	15.59	10	52	Taipei	17.63	11	Toronto	8.46	10	52	
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Calcutta	15.59	10	52	Taipei	17.63	11	Toronto	8.46	10	52	
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Chicago	15.59	10	52	Taipei	17.63	11	Toronto	8.46	10	52	
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Cape Town	15.59	10	52	Taipei	17.63	11					

US sends in another 82 warplanes

THE UNITED STATES announced the immediate dispatch of 82 war planes and other hardware to the Balkans at the weekend. The Pentagon also hinted that it might call up reservists to fulfil certain functions, such as flying Air Force tankers or providing additional ground support in Albania.

Yesterday the National Security Council confirmed that "stand-by plans" had been drawn up for the use of ground troops. This was qualified by the usual disclaimer, namely that "there has not been a request from the Nato commanders, and the President has no intention of introducing them". The disclosure was a reply to

critics who had said that if the US really had no plans for ground troops, then this was a serious oversight.

President Bill Clinton stayed out of the limelight, creating the impression - through a radio address devoted to the pensions and the health system - that he was not distracted by the situation in Kosovo.

But with Congress returning today from its Easter recess and a cross-party consensus building for the US to send ground troops into Kosovo, he is likely to face demands to end Nato's reliance on air power and commit American troops.

The new deployments, announced by the Pentagon late

on Saturday, bring the number of US planes taking part in the Nato operation to almost 500 - 85 per cent of the total.

The additional planes were made available at the express request of Nato's Commander, General Wesley Clark, who disclosed at the end of last week that he was seeking a large increase in alliance airpower. But the Pentagon's announcement may also help to convince the newly hawkish Congress that the US is not falling down on its duty.

The new planes include another 24 F-16 fighters, another four A-10 anti-tank planes, and another six radar-jamming EA-6 Prowlers. The majority will be

transport planes and tankers for mid-air refuelling.

The composition of the new contingent adds credibility to reports that Nato is preparing for round-the-clock bombing raids on Yugoslav targets. It suggests the alliance may be preparing to penetrate deeper into Serbian territory, while implicitly acknowledging that Nato's assessment of its task has shifted considerably since the first air strikes more than two weeks ago.

The first elements arrived in Tirana, Albania, yesterday for

the 24 Apache helicopter gunships that the US announced it would deploy almost a week ago. Although the Pentagon has denied the arrival of the Apaches signals any plan to deploy ground troops, that is how they are widely seen by US analysts.

While Albania is outside Nato and has no claim to join in the near future, it is rapidly becoming a launching pad for the alliance operation against neighbouring Serbia, and especially the US contribution to it. Albania's air space was

placed under US control at the end of last week; Tirana airport is being expanded and re-equipped to accommodate 24-hour take-offs and landings, and the 5,000 troops that will accompany the Apaches will be based there.

Moreover, at least one and possibly two big new refugee camps are to be established in the region, under Nato's Allied Harbour operation.

As the US publicly stepped up its military effort, it also gave increased attention to diplomacy. After attending today's Nato foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels, the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, will travel to Oslo for her first

face-to-face meeting with her Russian counterpart, Igor Ivanov, since the Kosovo crisis began.

This is the first high-level meeting since the Russian Prime Minister, Yevgeni Primakov, dramatically cancelled his planned visit to Washington after being informed that Nato would not refrain from air strikes until he left.

Yesterday, Mr Ivanov smoothed the way for the meeting by doing his best to calm fears aroused by some incendiary language from leaders of the Russian Duma last week. Calling for the resumption of "political dialogue", he told a Spanish newspaper: "Russia

is not going to be the country that unleashes the Third World War or any other military conflict of an international nature."

While the possibility that reservists could be called up sent a frisson of anxiety around Washington, the Pentagon insisted that for the time being there were sufficient volunteers to fill any gaps. Military analysts noted, however, that warnings of shortages - whether of manpower or materiel - were not without their uses for the Pentagon, which has argued that its combat readiness has been dangerously impaired by successive budget cuts since the end of the Cold War.

PENTAGON STRATEGY

By MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington



Young recruits to the Kosovo Liberation Army heading for a camp in northern Albania to be trained to fight Serbian forces in Kosovo. Tim Brakemeier/EPA

KLA engages in fierce fighting with Serb army

DAYS AFTER its ceasefire came into effect, the Yugoslav army is fighting fierce battles with Kosovo guerrillas and shelling groups of civilian refugees. Western monitors in contact with the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) say.

They describe a situation in which fugitives, guided and protected by KLA soldiers, are being fired upon by Serb tanks and artillery as they camp out on snowy hillsides.

Officials of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) who are in contact with KLA commanders via satellite telephone, say that the Serbs' artillery bombardment has continued in the KLA-held Pagarusa valley, despite a reported attack by Nato forces on Serb positions.

They also believe that the KLA has changed its tactics: instead of trying to defend villages from the Serbs it is concentrating on hit-and-run guerrilla attacks against the Yugoslav army, while attempting to pro-

tect the huge numbers of displaced Albanians trapped in the hills.

Over the past 10 days, the KLA has started operating in groups of four to six men and ambushing armoured columns with shoulder-aimed RPG-7 rocket launchers.

Against the Serbs' largest tanks they have had little success, but they have succeeded in depriving cavalry units of their infantry support. "The Serbs used to say that it would take them four days to get rid of the KLA," a British member of the OSCE said. "Now they've been going for three weeks."

William Walker, head of the OSCE verification mission, said that the ethnic Albanian fighters have no option but to withdraw from villages when they come under attack. "Let them pull out of villages and let them be burned rather than stay to defend them," he said.

"That shows what KLA capabilities are now. They've told us how they're running out of

ammunition and the various necessities of life. They're in bad shape, short term."

But Mr Walker says that the number of fighters is on the rise. "Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic has been the best recruiting sergeant the KLA could have hoped for. With a lot of young Kosovo Albanian men and women in the refugee camps who lost a parent or relative or saw their village burn, I would be very surprised not to see a groundswell of KLA support here."

New recruits are coming from the newly dispossessed refugees as well from within Albania with young men and women wanting to help their relatives across the border.

The British OSCE member said that in spite of their weak situation vis-a-vis the Serbs, the guerrillas had improved their military effectiveness. "Last

summer they were seen as a complete mess, not much more than a peasant army," he said. "Since then they've developed a command structure."

Exact numbers are difficult to determine but military analysts in Skopje estimate that the KLA has between 8,000 and 12,000 fighters, who fall into three different types. A few hundred are well-trained professionals, mostly former members of the Yugoslav army. A larger group of them are training in secret camps, most of which are in Albania. The rest are fighting in the hills of Kosovo.

The rebel army's greatest lack is not manpower, but ammunition. OSCE officials believe that only small amounts of ammunition are making it over the border from Albania. The KLA's arsenal consists, in effect, of light arms and a small number

of RPG anti-tank weapons and Kalashnikov rounds which they have captured from Serb units.

But it is the heavy stuff that they say if these are given there will be no need for Nato troops. One of its most senior commanders, Xheladin Gashi, who is in regular contact with United States diplomats in Albania, said: "We do not need Nato troops, we need anti-tank weapons. We can then take the offensive and do the job ourselves."

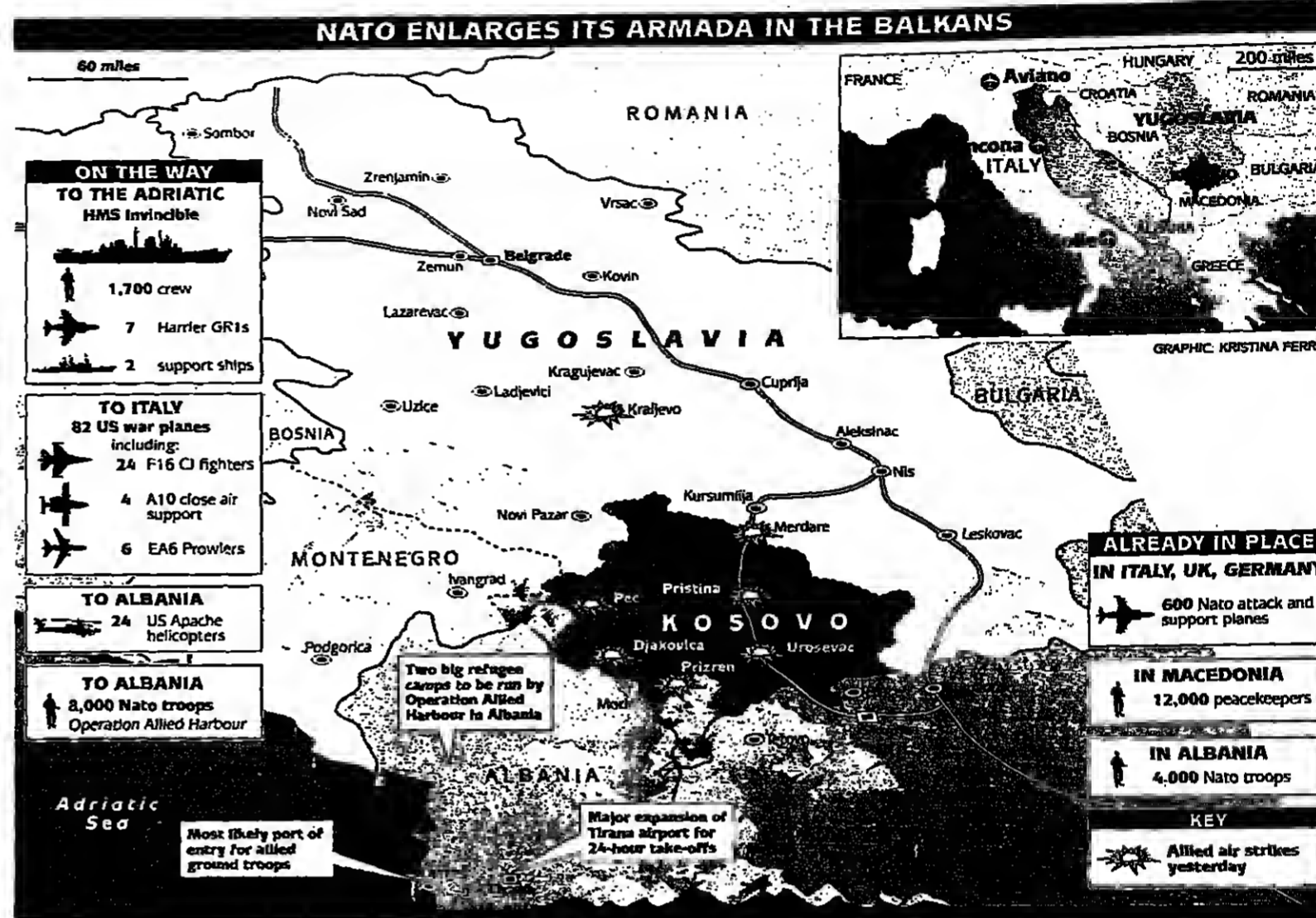
Although the West denies that it is arming the KLA, the rebel army acts as Nato's eyes and ears in Kosovo. Defence sources say that they are providing crucial aid to the alliance, acting as spotters on the ground, identifying allied air targets and hit Yugoslav army armour and heavy guns.

And the guerrilla organisation is being presented by the West as a crucial player in Kosovo. At yesterday's briefing in London at the Ministry of Defence, one of the first things mentioned by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, was a phone call he had received from Hashim Thaci, the KLA commander in Kosovo. This was just the latest mention of the organisation in glowing terms among government ministers in London, Washington and Brussels.

Contacts are taking place on regular and amicable basis between the KLA and American and Nato officials. KLA representatives can now be found in European capitals busy portraying the organisation as a serious political party. One KLA official said: "We are the real voice of Kosovo. When Kosovo is liberated we shall be leading the country. There is no alternative and we feel Nato is trying to realise that. What we need now are the arms."

There is, however, an embarrassing quandary for the West. Police forces across Europe accuse sections of the KLA of being involved in serious illegality, with much of their funding coming from drugs. Europol, the European police authority, is preparing a report on the KLA's narcotics connection after collating intelligence reports from Scandinavia, Switzerland and Germany. The US State Department has also spoken of the KLA's drugs links.

Then there is the question of the KLA's peculiar politics, which range from old-fashioned nationalism to Marxist-Leninism. The KLA official said: "There are some in the Pentagon who don't like us, but we are the ones doing the fighting and they cannot change everything. As far as the drugs are concerned, maybe there are a few people who got involved. But we are fighting for our lives. We don't have the time or the facility to check everyone's background."



GUERRILLA WARFARE

By RICHARD LLOYD PARRY in Skopje and KIM SENGUPTA

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TIMETABLE DAYS 18 & 19

Saturday 10 April
8am: Nato attacks targets around Pristina.
9am: Yugoslav army reopens border with Macedonia.
11am: UN says it wants refugees to stay in the region.
2.30pm: Powerful explosions heard in southern Serbian towns of Nis and Kraljevo.
4pm: UK says aircraft carrier *Invincible* is going to Adriatic. US orders in 82 more planes.
5pm: Missiles hit Pristina airport and nearby Urosvac. Serbs say they destroyed third missile near Pristina.
6pm: Serb forces and KLA exchange gunfire near Albania border.
8pm: Thousands of refugees enter Albania.
Sunday 11 April
1am: Nato planes drop 2.5 million leaflets explaining why Serbia is under attack.
10.30am: Explosions in Pristina.
Noon: Albania says it will accept more Nato troops on its territory.
2pm: One of two Australian aid workers who disappeared in Serbia is shown on TV and quoted as apologising for Nato actions.
2.30pm: Serbs say a three-year old girl, her father and another civilian were killed overnight at Mirovac.
4pm: Serbs say they repelled incursion into Kosovo from Albania on Saturday night.
4.15pm: Nato says aerial photograph may show fresh mass graves at Orlovac, Kosovo.
4.30pm: US says Nato has stand-by plans to use ground troops, but insist that air campaign will be sufficient.
5pm: Serbs say unknown gunmen killed newspaper owner Slavko Curuvija, a critic of Slobodan Milosevic.
6.05pm: Two civilians reported killed in Albania by Serb mortar attack.

Russia fumes as Hungary stops its convoy of aid

IN A flare-up of tension with the West, Russia was angered yesterday to learn that a convoy of aid lorries it is sending to Yugoslavia has been held up by customs officers in Hungary, now a member of Nato.

The Russian and Hungarian foreign ministries were trying to sort out the dispute, which could aggravate already severe tensions between Moscow and the West over the Balkans crisis.

Although Russia is poor enough to be receiving humanitarian aid from the West, Moscow last week found stocks of food, medicine and blankets for Yugoslavia. Orthodox priests blessed the convoy of white-painted lorries, which were supposed to arrive in Belgrade in time for Easter, celebrated this weekend by Russians and Serbs alike. However, the icon-bedecked convoy was also to deliver aid to Muslim Albanian refugees in a signal from Moscow that it cared about both sides in the ethnic and religious conflict.

The lorries were stopped at the border between Ukraine and Hungary. The Hungarian customs objected to the fact that some of the vehicles were armoured-plated, which could give them a dual civilian or military purpose. The Russian charity workers said the armoured plating was to protect them on roads where they could be shot at.

A reporter for the independent Russian NTV channel said that every time the drivers tried to satisfy the Hungarians, they came up with new bureaucratic pretexts to stop the convoy. Similar delays have arisen in Russia, where humanitarian aid sent from the West has been held up at docks by Russian customs officials.

The Russians feel their aid has been thrown back in their faces. The NTV reporter captured another undertone of Russian annoyance when he



Yeltsin: Trying to keep Russia out of war

denied and it seemed unlikely that a suggested union between Russia, Belarus and Yugoslavia would actually get off the ground.

However, the longer the war goes on, the greater the danger that Russia could be sucked in. If the aid convoy does enter Yugoslavia, Nato bombers must be careful that no stray rocket accidentally hits it.

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These rates of interest apply with effect from 12th April 1999

	PREVIOUS			NEW		
	AER%	GROSS%	NET%	AER%	GROSS%	NET%
Gold Service and Asset Management Service Current Accounts						
£50,000+	1.00	1.00	0.80	0.75	0.75	0.60
£10,000+	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.25	0.25	0.20
£1+	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.08
Classic Account and Graduate Service						
£1+	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.08
Student Account						
£1+	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.08
Lloyds Bank Account for Under 19s						
£1+	2.02	2.00	1.60	1.76	1.75	1.40
High Interest Cheque Account						
Account no longer available for new business.						
£50,000+	1.00	1.00	0.80	0.75	0.75	0.60
£10,000+	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.25	0.25	0.20
£1+	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.08
Choice Account						
Account no longer available for new business.						
£1+	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.08

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'Elizabeth' beats 'Shakespeare' to win five Baftas



Cate Blanchett, star of 'Elizabeth', won Bafta's Best Actress award yesterday. The film took four other awards

By DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE repeated its Oscar triumph last night, winning Best Film at the Bafta Awards. However, Gwyneth Paltrow, who attended the ceremony, was beaten to Best Actress by the star of *Elizabeth*, Cate Blanchett.

Elizabeth, which did not win any of the main prizes in last month's Oscars, won five awards yesterday - more than any other film. Key prizes also went to *Shakespeare in Love*, with Judi Dench repeating her Oscar triumph as Best Supporting Actress for her eight minutes on screen as Queen Elizabeth. Geoffrey Rush, who missed out at the Oscars, won Best Supporting Actor.

Dame Judi could not receive her award as she is starring on Broadway in David Hare's play *Amy's View*. But a number of British stars including Lynn Redgrave, Tim Roth, Hugh Grant, Pierce Brosnan and John Hurt attended the awards ceremony in Islington, north London.

THE SCREEN WINNERS

Film: *Shakespeare in Love*
Director: Peter Weir, *The Truman Show*
Screenplay: Andrew Niccol, *The Truman Show*
Screenplay (Adapted): Elaine May, *Primary Colors*
Actress: Cate Blanchett, *Elizabeth*
Actor: Roberto Benigni, *Life is Beautiful*
Supporting Actress: Judi Dench, *Shakespeare in Love*
Supporting Actor: Geoffrey Rush, *Shakespeare in Love*
Alexander Korda award for outstanding film: *Elizabeth*
Foreign Film: *Central do Brazil*
Music: *Elizabeth*
Newcomer: Richard

Kwiatkowski, director, *Love and Death on Long Island*
Cinematography: Remi Adefarasin, *Elizabeth*
Production Design: Dennis Gassner, *The Truman Show*
Costume Design: Sandy Powell, *Velvet Goldmine*
Editing: David Gamble, *Shakespeare in Love*
Sound: Saving Private Ryan
Special Effects: Saving Private Ryan
Make-up/Hair: Jenny Shircore, *Elizabeth*
Short Film: *Home*
Short Animated Film: *The Canterbury Tales*
The Orange Audience Award: *Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels*

biopic, and *Little Voice* starring Michael Caine, Jane Horrocks and Brenda Blethyn. Another homegrown movie received a consolation prize: *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*, won the Orange-sponsored audience award for the most popular film in a nationwide survey of cinema audiences.

The Michael Balcon Award for Outstanding British Contribution to Film went to Michael Kuhn, former head of Polygram Film Entertainment.

The emotional high spot came when 67-year-old Elizabeth Taylor received a Lifetime Achievement Fellowship.

She said that her Bafta meant as much to her as an Oscar - a reaction that will delight the British film industry which has long been trying to elevate the Baftas to the status of the Oscars.

Bafta chairman Tim Angel said: "With a career spanning six decades, Elizabeth Taylor is one of the world's most respected and best-loved actresses. She is truly deserving of this accolade."

Biotech experts to lose GM role

SCIENTISTS WITH current or recent links to the biotechnology industry are to be barred from a key government committee on genetically modified crops.

Increased public concern over the safety of GM foods and crops has persuaded ministers to draw up sweeping plans to reform its main body of advisers on the issue.

The overhaul of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (Acres) will see more "pro-green" representatives placed on it to ensure that there is a more even balance of opinion.

Ten of Acres' 13 members, including its chairman, will be replaced this June when their terms come to an end. The Government sees the change as the ideal opportunity for reform.

Only one member of the committee, Julie Hill, of the Green Alliance, has expertise in environmental affairs, while all the others are academics or industry figures.

Acres' retiring chairman, John Beringer, has long maintained that GM crops "are here to stay" and is seen by his critics as a confirmed advocate of their benefits.

Some ministers were also astonished that another committee member, Nigel Poole, works for Zeneca Seeds, part of the multinational biotech company that wants to promote GM crops across the globe.

In a big push to transform the body, Michael Meacher, the Minister for the Environment, has now ordered his officials to look for new members who do not have current or recent past contacts with the biotech industry.

Instead, people with expertise in farmland systems, wildlife biodiversity and ecological practice will be encouraged to apply for membership of the committee.

Mr Meacher told *The Inde-*

pendent that he was keen to respond to recent allegations that Acres' membership had in the past been too closely tied to companies or organisations that carried out gene research or crop trials.

"There is a general view that some of the people were rather too close to the industry and rather too pro-GM. As a government, we are not taking sides but we do want a better balance of opinion," he said. "This is not an ideological clear-out, but the changes in membership of the committee allow us the ideal opportunity to respond to public concerns on the issue."

Mr Meacher added that he would also extend the remit of the committee to include the effects of the indirect as well as the direct impacts of GM crops on the environment, including influences on other GM strains.

"I want a wide trawl of people to ensure that we get the right balance. It is difficult to find experts who have had no links with industry but it is not impossible."

"Ministers are not scientists and we rely on committees like this to provide us with a breadth of scientific opinion and to reflect the wider balance of debate. I'm determined that we do get that balance, while retaining the scientific and analytical benefits."

Green groups and leading members of the Local Government Association, which has banned GM from school menus, have recently asked for an overhaul of Acres along such lines.

Professor Beringer recently told a Commons select committee that it was extremely difficult for scientists not to have links with industry in the 1990s because of cuts in state aid to universities.



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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

'Sometimes we do all get on, but when people get stressed, everything falls apart'

LEONA ON THE PROBLEMS WITH MEN IN THIS STUDENT LIFE

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, IAN JACK, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SUSANNAH FRANKEL, BRIAN VINEY, PHILIP HENSHER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, DEBORAH ORR, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUI ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Ulster worst for threat to lawyers

MORE LAWYERS in Northern Ireland were the victims of death threats and harassment than in any other part of the European Union, according to an international report into the infringement of lawyers' human rights.

The study, by the International Commission of Jurists based in Geneva and presented to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, found that 40 lawyers working in Northern Ireland had complained of intimidation last year. The number included the case of the solicitor Rosemary Nelson who was murdered in a car bomb attack last month. Focusing on Mrs Nelson's death the ICJ called on the Government to order a judicial inquiry into the "wider issue of intimidation of defence lawyers by police in Northern Ireland".

The ICJ investigators identified 446 cases worldwide where lawyers had been murdered, assaulted, intimidated or disappeared. Turkey, with 93 cases, was the only country in Europe to have a worse record for harassing lawyers than Northern Ireland.

BY ROBERT VERKAIK
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Mona Rishmawi, the ICJ's director of the Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, said she met Rosemary Nelson last year while investigating threats and intimidation faced by lawyers in the province.

"She was on the top of our list because she knew something would happen to her," said Ms Rishmawi. Of the 40 lawyers known to have been the subject of harassment in Northern Ireland, Mrs Nelson was the only

one who was prepared to go public with her complaints, said Ms Rishmawi. An investigation into Mrs Nelson's death is being led by Kent police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Typically, the ICJ claimed, many lawyers had received death threats and were the target of intimidation. Ms Rishmawi said: "The RUC want to get confessions out of them (the suspects) and try pushing them to confess by undermining the lawyer. They feel the lawyer is an obstacle."

While the ICJ welcomes Britain's decision to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into national law through the Human Rights Act, Ms Rishmawi said she was "extremely worried" about the Nelson case and that of another solicitor, Patrick Finucane, who was shot dead in front of his wife and three children in 1989. No one has been tried for his murder.

A spokesman for the Law Society of Northern Ireland said it would bring all complaints to the attention of the RUC Chief Constable, Ronnie Flanagan.

The ICJ report also named Colombia, Brazil, Tunisia, Burma and Turkey as having the worst records for the intimidation and violent treatment of lawyers.

The number of lawyers killed in the countries investigated by the ICJ jumped from 26 in 1997 to 49 last year.

A total of 230 lawyers were arrested, prosecuted or tortured, 73 were physically attacked, 67 were verbally threatened and 24 were professionally obstructed or sanctioned.

progress, but the UUP wanted clarification on the exact meaning of the Hillsborough Declaration before endorsing or rejecting it.

Four members of the 28-strong UUP Assembly team - Bill Armstrong, Pauline Armitage, Roy Beggs Jnr and Derek Hussey - have already publicly expressed their concerns over the Declaration.

With the Assembly currently balanced at 29-29 between those in favour and against, Mr Trimble cannot afford to lose their support.

But Mr Trimble repeated yesterday that his party will not share power with Sinn Féin unless the IRA made a "credible start" to decommissioning first.

He said he was looking forward to trying to make

decommissioning had moved significantly on the issue, by not repeating previous pledges "never" to hand over any arms.

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Unionists reject army bases offer

ATTEMPTS to break the deadlock over arms decommissioning in Northern Ireland, by offering to close army bases in return for a weapons handover by the IRA, were rejected by the Ulster Unionists yesterday.

British government sources had indicated over the weekend that the impasse could be bridged by reducing the number of "legally held" guns in the province.

However, David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), said that he firmly rejected the idea that the police

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

or Army should give up weapons as part of the "collective act of reconciliation" suggested in the Hillsborough Declaration, agreed by the UK and Irish governments on 1 April. "There is absolutely no equivalent between arms held by the Army and police and those held by illegal organisations," he said.

Mr Trimble did, however, indicate he recognised that recent IRA statements on

decommissioning had moved significantly on the issue, by not repeating previous pledges "never" to hand over any arms.

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Special Constable Dave Gunn looking over the crowds at Beaulieu boat jumble, Hampshire, where buyers could pick up this 1905 periscope. Russell Sach

No jihad on Blair, says Murdoch

BY PAUL WAUGH

RUPERT MURDOCH denied his papers would wage a "jihad" on the Government for deciding to block BSkyB's £625m bid for Manchester United, as the Tories seized on evidence that ministers tried to influence the outcome.

"I'm disappointed but we're not going to start a jihad on the Government or anything like that," Mr Murdoch said yesterday. The deal was scuppered on Friday when Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said it would give BSkyB an unfair advantage in future televised sports rights negotiations. He accepted the opinion of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) that it could also have "damaged... British football". He said he made his decision in his "quasi-judicial" capacity as secretary of state; it was guided strictly by the terms of the case and not any external political factors.

But it emerged the Government tried to influence the MMC when the Department of Culture, Media and Sport submitted evidence on the takeover. Chris Smith, secretary of state, sent a letter, and representations were made to Peter Mandelson, Mr Byers' predecessor, sources said.

The department said it was reflecting views of the football lobby. But John Redwood, Tory trade and industry spokesman, said the disclosure showed government claims of impartiality were hollow.

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INDEPENDENT
Monday 12 April 1999

HEALTH
'SULKING' CAN BE
SERIOUS PROBLEM
FOR US ARTS AND
MEDIA

L. BRIAN VINCE
HITMAN SMITH

No jihad
on Blair,
says
Murdoch

BY PAUL WALSH

RUPERT MURDOCH denied his
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ment tried to influence the
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mitted evidence on the
takeover. Chris Smith, sec-
retary of state, sent a letter and
representations were made to
Peter Mandelson, Mr Byers
predecessor, sources said.

The department said it was
not aware of the football
club. But when Redwood, for
trust and industry spokesman
said the deal was "showing
serious signs of impar-
tiality", the department
was alerted.

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Officials study affair dossier from Woodhead's ex-wife

THE GOVERNMENT confirmed yesterday that it was examining a legal dossier of evidence about claims that the Chief Inspector of Schools, Chris Woodhead, had an affair with a pupil while he was a teacher at her school.

Mr Woodhead's former wife, Cathy, submitted a series of documents to the Department for Education and Employment last week. The move follows her claims last month that Mr Woodhead had admitted to having an affair with a sixth-form pupil, Amanda Johnston, while he was a teacher at Gordan School near Bristol during the

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

Seventies, something that Mr Woodhead strongly denies.

Former colleagues of the chief inspector have claimed that the affair was common knowledge at the school. But Mr Woodhead and Ms Johnston have made sworn statements that their relationship started only after both had left the school.

Mrs Woodhead said yesterday that she was considering legal action if the department did not initiate an investigation into her former husband's con-

duct. She said that in denying her version of events towards the end of their marriage, Mr Woodhead was calling her a liar.

"If suing Chris Woodhead is what it would take to get to the truth, I'm prepared to contemplate it," she said.

The divorce papers are said to include references to an affair between Mr Woodhead and a pupil. Mr Woodhead is said to have signed a statement saying that he did "not wish to disclose the name of the lady in question for professional reasons".

Yesterday the department said the statement did not form

part of the dossier it had received from Mrs Woodhead. A spokeswoman said: "On initial examination there is nothing in the details of the papers we have which substantiate the story. We were sent some papers by Mrs Woodhead's lawyers last week and we are looking at those."

"We are not conducting an investigation... If people do have information they think we should have they are more than welcome to send it in."

Mr Woodhead said: "I have no comment to make on what my former wife wants to do. She must make up her own mind to

do what she wants to do for herself."

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, said that so far, he had been made aware of no evidence "that changes the situation or the position of Chris Woodhead. Angry and distraught recollections or notes made by a solicitor in the autumn of 1976 do not constitute a case for action or anything that could threaten Chris Woodhead's job," he said.

Mr Woodhead has been at the centre of controversy since The Independent revealed earlier

this year that he had told trainee teachers that relationships between pupils could be "educative and experiential". Under the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill passing through the Commons, teachers who have relationships with pupils aged 16 or 17 at their school face up to two years in jail.

Figures due out today will counter criticism of the Government's class-size initiative. David Blunkett said. They will show continued progress towards the pledge to cut infant classes to 30, without a reduction in parental choice.

Eagle owls invade Britain

BY BRIAN UNWIN
AND LINDA GREGORIADIS

ONE OF continental Europe's fiercest birds of prey, capable of carrying off dogs, cats, wild boar and even deer, is now breeding in Britain.

The eagle owl, with its six-foot wingspan, is one of more than a score of bird species establishing themselves in the wild after escaping from collections of exotic avifauna. An expert warned yesterday that some of them could become pests, or pose serious problems for other wildlife.

Top of the list is the eagle owl. There is nothing in British bird life quite like *Bubo bubo*, whose regular habitat is rugged hill or mountain country in Europe, north Africa and Asia. They are huge barrel-shaped brown birds, standing over 2ft high with prominent feather tufts giving them a booby appearance. They hunt by ambushing passing prey or pouncing on birds - as big as eider ducks. Fish can be taken by plunging-diving or hovering.

Successful breeding of the birds has occurred for the past two years on a secluded army training range near Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire.

"Eagle owls occur widely in captivity in Britain," said Dr Malcolm Ogilvie, secretary of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. "They seem to be quite easy to keep in this state, they breed quite well, apparently, and, unfortunately, they also seem to be good at escaping."

Dr Ogilvie added: "There is no evidence they have ever lived naturally in Britain and if they became established

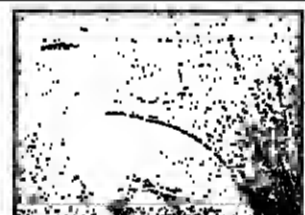


An avifauna expert has warned that the eagle owl could become a nuisance after escaping from captivity in Britain. Geoff Du Feu

EXOTIC BIRDS GONE NATIVE



Rose-ringed parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*): Native to Africa and India, was added to British list in 1983 after feral breeding in London's outer suburbs. These 16in-long green birds are now widespread in the South-east.



Snow goose (*Anser caerulescens*): Wild population mainly in east US, Canada. Attempts to naturalise in Britain made in 1870s; free-flying birds released in Surrey in late 1960s. The report says 24 pairs were found in Kent in 1996.



Wood duck (*Aix sponsa*): Wild population mainly in east US, Canada. Attempts to naturalise in Britain made in 1870s; free-flying birds released in Surrey in late 1960s. The report says 24 pairs were found in Kent in 1996.

here through escaping from captivity, they could become a nuisance and would not be welcome."

The panel has produced a report warning that a range of alien birds nesting in the UK is posing potentially serious problems. The report focuses on 22 species that are gaining footholds, including Australian black swans, Asiatic bar-headed geese, Arctic-nesting snow geese, barnacle geese, and tropical rose-ringed and monk parakeets.

Rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*) nesting in south-east England are known to damage fruit crops.

They could also compete with native species for food and nest sites. Monk parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*) could present similar problems. Birds from an aviary at Tiverton, Devon, have nested in the area in recent years.

Eight British seabird colonies are to be closely monitored under a scheme launched today amid fears that their numbers are shrinking because of sanded fishing. Every year Danish trawlers in the North Sea net about one million tons of the fish, which form the staple diet of the kittiwake, the Arctic tern, the puffin and other birds.



One of John Coote's young chacoan monkey tree frogs.

Monkey tree frog warning to pet owners

BY CLARE GARNER

"Our inspectors are now almost as likely to be called out to a case involving a python or iguana as they are to one involving a cat or dog," an RSPCA spokesman said. "The public must think more carefully be-

fore buying exotic pets. Some are just not suitable to be kept as pets and others need special heating, lighting or housing." He warned that they could also need expensive veterinary care.

The monkey frog comes from northern Argentina and Paraguay, and its natural habi-

tat is desert. It must be fed live insects, such as three or four crickets two or three times a week, and have its accommodation kept at 30C to 35C.


Its movements are slow and deliberate, even when they are pursuing live insect prey. "They will stay in almost

any position in which you care to place them. They simply look at you as you pick them up, rarely making any attempt to evade capture," said John Coote, of Nottingham, who bought two froglets last year for £165 each from a breeder in southern California.

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(Interest paid annually)				
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£5,000	2.05%	1.80%	1.80%	1.44%
£2,000	1.85%	1.60%	1.60%	1.28%
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Hague tries 'regular guy' relaunch

WILLIAM HAGUE'S public image will undergo yet another revamp tomorrow amid Conservative fears that Tony Blair's tough stance on Kosovo has made Labour more popular than ever.

In place of the stiff, dour persona for which the Tory leader has become infamous, he will be relaunching as a more down-to-earth "regular guy" in touch with the ordinary voter, his aides have announced.

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

The new approach, which will involve more public appearances with his wife, Fiona, will be unveiled when Mr Hague kicks off the Conservatives' campaign for next month's local elections.

The move follows worries that Labour will benefit from a "Kosovo effect" in the 6 May elections, just as the Tories

swept the board in the aftermath of the Falklands War.

Mr Hague's hopes of using the European elections to boost his party's standing will be hit today by the announcement by pro-Euro rebels that they will stand candidates in every seat in June. The breakaway Pro-Euro Conservative Party will field 71 candidates in England, enough to qualify for a party election broadcast, which could split the Tory vote.

The new Hague style, which is the brainchild of his new director of communications, Amanda Platell, will attempt to use the local and European elections to portray the Leader of the Opposition as a warm, accessible public figure.

"We have to demonstrate that he is not just some one-dimensional parliamentary performer. He is someone who went to a state school, who is in his element talking to regular people," one adviser said.

Instead of attending the campaign's official press conference, Mr Hague will go on the first of a series of visits outside London that will see him meeting young people. Despite previous, much-ridiculed attempts to project a less stuffy image, including the notorious pictures of him at the Notting Hill Carnival and wearing a baseball cap at a leisure park, he will be seen more

often in casual dress than a suit and tie. A fly-on-the-wall documentary will be made and he will conduct more interviews with women's magazines. Michael Ancram, the Tory party chairman, admitted yesterday that Mr Hague was "perhaps not being noticed as widely as he should be."

"This is why we want to get him out and around and use the elections to do that in a way that is more visible than the way he has been doing it since he became leader," Mr Ancram told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend* programme.

The Prime Minister will launch Labour's local elections campaign today with a warning that unless the Tories gain at least 1,500 seats, Mr Hague's leadership will have failed its biggest electoral test to date.

Mr Blair will declare that the Government is willing to see the council elections, as well as the votes for the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly, as a referendum on its ability to deliver its promises.

Although Labour is expecting some losses in the local elections, Mr Blair is taking a high-profile role. At Labour's elections launch at Millbank, he will be accompanied by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Margaret Beckett, the Leader of the Commons.

Ashcroft in mystery of school funds

CHARITY COMMISSIONERS have launched a formal inquiry into an organisation backed by the Conservative Party treasurer Michael Ashcroft amid mystery over payments of almost £300,000 a year to staff at a state school.

The Adleem Foundation is a charity that supports the ADT College in Wandsworth, south-west London. Accounts being examined by the commissioners show that in 1997 the fund spent £273,948 on the college.

But the accounts for the college, of which Mr Ashcroft is a director, showed a far smaller amount, just £80,851, in donations and gifts in kind during the year to August 1997.

Accounts for 1996-97 for the foundation reveal it paid college staff costs of £291,134 and "other costs" of £62,109. The charity's total income that year was only £152,038. One of four staff employed by the charity in connection with the college was paid between £140,000 and £150,000. No one at the charity would return calls when *The Independent* sought clarification of the accounts.

Richard Painter, Mr Ashcroft's right-hand man at Conservative Central Office, has also been involved in the running of the charity. Mr Ashcroft's wife, Susie, was a trustee until recently, and one of its main assets was several million pounds in shares in Mr Ashcroft's company, the Belize-based BHI Corporation.

Since it was set up in 1989 the foundation has made donations to several of Mr Ashcroft's favourite causes including the Crimestoppers charity, which he set up. Since 1996, though,

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

its main activity has been running the ADT College fund.

The technology college was set up with the backing of Mr Ashcroft's ADT security company. In 1995-96 the charity received a donation of £2.9 million from ADT "to be used in the furtherance of ADT college", taking its total funds to £3.8 million.

The charity's 1997 accounts disclosed that it had applied for tax exemption for an investment, and that if it was unsuccessful it might have to pay tax of £500,000. It also disclosed it had lent £2m to an undisclosed recipient.

A spokesman for the Charity Commissioners said the charity had been under formal investigation since August 1998. Its trustees had been co-operative, he said.

David Durban, headteacher and managing director of the school, refused to discuss the accounts, or to answer questions about payments to college staff. In a written statement he said: "No donor funds any member of staff, but donors are free to request that their donation is a contribution to some aspect of the college and it is recorded accordingly."

A source close to the charity said the inquiry involved a technical matter and was not related to the college's funding. The college's local Labour MP Tony Colman, said it was an excellent school that was over-subscribed. "I would hope the Department for Education and Employment would look at this to ensure that everything is above board," he added.



Donald Dewar (right) and the architect Enric Miralles yesterday unveiling plans for the Scottish Parliament, to be built in Edinburgh. At the Scottish Office headquarters in Leith, the Secretary of State for Scotland said it would be 'a fitting symbol of democracy' Colin McPherson

Lorries to jam nine cities

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

MOTORISTS ARE facing traffic chaos today with lorry drivers preparing to jam nine cities and towns in their continuing protest against rising fuel and road taxes.

Hauliers were expected to use their vehicles to block roads in London, Manchester, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle upon Tyne, Middlesbrough, Truro, Exeter and Plymouth.

In Park Lane, London, the site of a 1,500-strong demonstration last month, the hauliers were expected to be joined by pig farmers protesting against the Government's agriculture policies. London taxi drivers, upset at diesel prices, were also due to join the rally.

The latest direct action by truckers has been organised by the campaign group Transport Action. The group's leader, Frank Stears, said he was going ahead with today's protest after the Government had failed to placate it over increases in lorry road tax and diesel fuel prices imposed in the Budget.

Mr Stears says the higher costs are making it difficult for UK firms to compete with their rivals on the Continent.

He said: "If they don't help out now and do something quickly, then within two to three years 50 per cent of the lorries on the roads in Great Britain will be either foreign-owned or foreign-registered."

The protest is being backed by the Road Haulage Association, but the more moderate Freight Transport Association has urged its members not to take part in demonstrations.

The lorry drivers' cause will also receive the backing of the railway industry. The Railway Forum will attack the policy of increasing duty on diesel.

Leading article, Review, page 3

The self-made woman makes her mark among UK super-rich

BY KATHY MARKS

ANOTHER YEAR, another clutch of multi-millionaires. So many people are stinking rich these days that entry to the list of Britain's wealthiest 1,000 people now requires a minimum £21m fortune.

Reaching that figure was not a problem for the 185 people who have catapulted themselves into the *Sunday Times* Rich List for the first time, including Paloma Picasso, the artist's daughter, the highest new entry at £350m.

The 1999 list, published yesterday, features more women than before: 71, compared with just 57 in 1998. Ten years ago, when the league table of riches was first compiled, only six women made the grade, including the Queen, valued this year at £250m.

Compared with some other women, the monarch is a pauper. The wealthiest woman in the country - Lady Grantchester, matriarch of the Moores family, owners of the Littlewoods shopping and football pools empire - has £1.5bn at her disposal.



Lady Grantchester (left), Britain's wealthiest woman, and Paloma Picasso, a new entrant on the Rich List

The other woman with billionaire status is Chryss Goulondris, the Greek shipping heiress. She is married to Tony O'Reilly, the food and media tycoon whose interests include *The Independent*, and their joint fortune is estimated at £1.1bn.

Top of the list overall is Hans Rausing, the British-based Swedish industrialist, who weighs in with a cool £3.4bn. Lord Sainsbury of Turville, the



Labour minister under political pressure in the controversy over genetically modified food, has dropped from pole position to number two because of a fall in the share price of his supermarket chain.

The table of affluence includes 16 billionaires, 137 aristocrats, and two MPs, both Conservatives: Michael Heseltine, valued at £150m, and Alan Clark, with a more modest £35m. The entrepreneurial cul-

ture is clearly flourishing and making the go-getters a lot of money: more than 70 per cent of the entries made their wealth rather than inheriting it.

Other new entries include Michael Flatley, the dancer, who lives in London and has a fortune estimated at £50m, and Toni Mascolo and his brothers, the founders of the Toni and Guy hairdressing group, said to be worth £70m. Also new on the list, thanks to the on-going revival of the Great British sandwich, are Julian Metcalfe and Sinclair Beecham, the men behind the Pret A Manger food chain, while the reappearance of the Bee Gees on the music scene has boosted the net worth of British-born Barry Robin and Maurice Gibb to £90m.

Riches are relative, of course, and all of the British tycoons and aristocrats in the *Sunday Times* league table pale into insignificance when placed in the wider context of Europe and the world.

Hans Rausing is only number 19 on the list of Europe's fabulously wealthy, which is headed by Paul Sacher and the Hoffman family, owners of

the Swiss pharmaceuticals group, worth £15.48bn.

British billionaires do not figure at all among the world's 50 richest people. They are headed by Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, which the survey says has a £36.25bn fortune.

Anne McElvoy, Review, page 4

NOTICE TO ARCADIA GROUP CARDHOLDERS

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- PAID BY OTHER MEANS	2.21%	29.9
BUDGET ACCOUNTS	2.25%	30.6
POWER OPTION ACCOUNTS	2.14%	28.9

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IN BRIEF

Ex-soldier shot dead by police

AN ARMED ex-soldier shot dead by a police marksman in Falmouth, Cornwall, had fired an imitation weapon at the police two years ago. Antony Kitts, 20, was killed on Saturday after pointing a weapon at officers. An inquiry into the shooting is under way.

Gas complaints hit record high

THE NUMBER of complaints against the gas industry rose to record levels last year, according to the Gas Consumers Council. It said the industry must improve customer service significantly. Out of the 80,478 complaints, about 25,000 were made against British Gas Trading.

Police warn of deadly heroin

POLICE ISSUED a warning to heroin users after one man died and five others were taken ill in Sheffield, having apparently used a particularly pure batch of the drug being sold for £5 a fix - half the normal price.

Council help services vary widely

THE QUALITY of services for people needing long or short-term help from their local council varies widely from area to area, according to a new Audit Commission report.

Two share National Lottery £8m

TWO TICKETS won the £8m jackpot in Saturday's National Lottery. The numbers were 35, 25, 18, 36, 32, 10, bonus 2.

Pinochet backed by old ally Bush

THE FORMER US President George Bush has added his name to the list of international statesmen calling on the Government to block the extradition of General Augusto Pinochet to Spain.

With Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, due to announce his decision on the case on Friday, Mr Bush has declared that charges against the former Chilean dictator represent "a travesty of justice". In a letter to Lord Lamont of Lerwick, the Conservative peer leading the British campaign on behalf of General Pinochet, Mr Bush said he should be sent home to Chile "as soon as possible".

Mr Bush worked closely with the Pinochet regime when he was director of the CIA in the 1970s. Lord Lamont said that

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

Mr Straw should now listen to the series of world figures who had called for the extradition application to be rejected.

"Kissinger, Lady Thatcher, the Pope and now George Bush have all indicated that General Pinochet should be sent home to Chile. It's time for the Government to bring this farce to an end," he said.

However, Widney Brown, of the New York-based Human Rights Watch group, said Mr Bush's comments were out of step with a wide section of legal and political opinion abroad. "It is not a travesty of justice. What is a travesty is the lack of accountability for the crime committed," she said.

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for the Scottish Parli-
ment and Welsh Assembly as
over its promises.
Although Labour is expect-
ing some losses in the local
elections, Mr Blair is taking a
low-profile role. At Labour's
election launch at Millbank, he
will be accompanied by Gordon
Brown, the Chancellor, John
Scott, the Deputy Prime
Minister, and Margaret Beckett,
Leader of the Commons.

Corries
to jam
ine
ities

PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

ORISTS ARE facing traffic
today with lorry drivers
striving to jam nine cities and
as in their continuing
fight against rising fuel and
taxes.
Lorry drivers were expected to
block roads in London, Man-
chester, Edinburgh, Glas-
gow, Newcastle, Tyne, Mid-
dlesbrough, Exeter and Plym-
outh. Park Lane, London, the
of a 1,500-strong demon-
stration last month, the hauliers
expected to be joined by
farmers protesting against
government's agriculture
policy. London taxi drivers,
at diesel prices, were
due to join the rally.
The latest direct action by
lorry drivers has been organised by
campaign group Trans-
porters. The group's leader,
Steve Gowan, said he was going
to the day's protest after
government had failed to
to it over increases in
road tax and diesel fuel
prices. He said the higher
prices were making it difficult
for him to compete with
other hauliers on the continent.
said: "If they don't help
me and do something
to reduce the cost of the
fuel, I'm going to the
continent to Great Britain
to see if I can get a better
deal." A protest is being backed
by the House of Lords.
The Transport Association
said its members are not
to join demonstrations.
Lorry drivers' cause will
be the backing of the
industry. The Railway
Union will attack the policy of
singling out diesel.
Leading article.
Review, page 3

Cheap flights end 75 miles out of town

ADVERTISING WATCHDOGS are
to investigate complaints about
an airline for flying to airports
miles away from the advertised
destination.

Ryanair's service from
Stansted to Frankfurt, which
starts on 22 April, lands at
Hahn - a former United States
air force base 75 miles from the
city. Passengers will then have
to take a 75-minute coach ride
to Frankfurt or hail a taxi to the
nearest railway station 25 miles
away for a connecting train.

Ryanair has been repeated-
ly condemned for similar ser-
vices. Three complaints have
already been upheld by the Ad-
vertising Standards Authority.

The ASA confirmed yesterday
it was likely to investigate the
latest service. It has already re-
ceived a telephone complaint
and will act once it has written
confirmation. "Ryanair are re-
sponsible for most of the prob-
lems in the flight industry on
misleading of airports," ASA
spokesman Steve Ballinger said.

The previously upheld com-
plaints relate to Ryanair listing
Venice as a destination for
flights that land at Treviso 15
miles away, flights advertised
for Oslo that landed 50 miles
away at Torp airport, and a
Stockholm service that flew to
Skanavä, 80 miles away.

Ryanair's marketing director,
Tim Jeans, defended the ad-
vertisement for the latest ser-
vice. He said that passengers
would be told the airport details
before they confirmed their
booking. Although Stockholm,
Oslo, Frankfurt and Venice all
have nearer airports, they are
designated by the International
Air Transport Association as
city airports, he said.

He added: "We have taken
issue with ASA because we be-
lieve we are being discrimi-

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

nated against because those
airports are officially designat-
ed as airports for that city."

He said the lower costs of op-
erating from little-used small
airports allowed Ryanair to
offer a fare of £89.99 to Hahn -
a fraction of the price charged
by the major carriers. Hahn is
likely to become an increasingly
popular destination as Frank-
furt airport is officially full up,
Mr Jeans added.

But Mr Ballinger said: "We
think it is for the ASA to inter-
pret the advert and not the ad-
vertiser, who has a vested
interest."

The issue highlights the
growth in popularity of small
airports, which are cheaper
and less congested than their
bigger rivals. Many European
cities, including Paris, Düssel-
dorf, Rome and Milan, have sec-
ondary airports.

Deregulation has allowed
smaller operators to break mo-
nopolies held by the European
state airlines but high charges
at the traditional airports forced
them to look elsewhere. Con-
gestion at the London airports
Heathrow and Gatwick prompt-
ed budget airlines such as



British Airways' Go, Ryanair,
Debonair and easyJet to use
Stansted or Luton. Other sec-
ondary airports include Prest-
wick, 30 miles from Glasgow, and
Liverpool, 30 miles from the
major airport at Manchester.

Debonair, which flies from
Luton to Paris Pontoise, 22
miles north of the city, claimed
it took only 30 minutes by train
to reach the centre and was a
more pleasant experience than
passing through Charles de
Gaulle.

easyJet, which uses Luton
and Liverpool, said it could
offer cheaper fares because it
saved on landing and handling
charges, and because aircraft
could be turned around more
quickly. The company's spokes-
man, James Rothnie, said: "We
can have a Luton-based Boeing
737 flying for 12 hours, while at
Heathrow it would fly for seven
hours, because of the fast turn-
around times between landing
and take-off."

The International Fund for An-
imal Welfare (IFAW) has been
criticised by the Advertising
Standards Authority over claims
in an anti-foxhunting adver-
tisement. The authority upheld
three complaints by the Coun-
tryside Alliance, the Cattistock
Hunt and members of the pub-
lic about the advertisement,
which appeared in the national
press and showed a photograph
of a pack of hounds ripping a fox
apart under the headline "RIP".

The ASA said in its month-
ly report that IFAW's accom-
panying claim that "one [fox]
that died this way was found
with lungs full of soil" was "an
exaggeration" that did not have
enough evidence to support it.
It asked that in future such
claims should not be repeated
unless they had full supporting
evidence.



Emily Crowhurst with a picture of her father

New Zealand Herald



Private Hughes cast a message to his wife into the sea

1914 message in bottle found

THE FINAL words written by
a soldier who died 85 years ago
have turned up in a bottle in
the Thames estuary, and the
fisherman who made the dis-
covery has been asked to
return the letter to the soldier's
family.

Twelve days before he was
killed in the First World War,
Private Thomas Hughes wrote
his wife, Elizabeth, the mes-
sage: "Ta ta my sweet for the
present, your hubby", which he
placed in a bottle and cast into
the sea. The note remained un-
read until Steve Gowan
scooped it up in his net off the
Essex coast.

Pte Hughes' wife died in
1979. His daughter, 86-year-
old Emily Crowhurst, who lives
in Auckland, New Zealand,
has pleaded with Mr Gowan to
part with the letter.

"I only have a few photos of
my father but I spent most of

BY CHRIS RYAN

my life trying to find out more
about him," she said yesterday.
"I understand the fisherman is
keen to keep the letter and the
bottle as a souvenir, but it
would mean so much to me to
have it."

Mrs Crowhurst was two
years old when she last saw
her father as he headed off to
battle with the Durham Light
Infantry in 1914. She still wears
his war medals at military
commemorations.

Mrs Crowhurst's daughter,
Elizabeth Kennedy, said: "It is
too late for the letter to be
opened by the person it was
intended for, but the next best
thing is for it to be handed to
his daughter."

"It's incredible that some-
thing lying on the seabed for
almost a century has survived
intact for so long."

Psychological Society Conference

CD-Rom 'is better than a therapist'

ANXIETY AND depression
could soon be treated by CDs
available in the shops or the
public library. Psychologists
have found that computers are
more successful in helping
some people than one-to-one
specialist treatment.

In a study involving patients
who had been ill with chronic
and severe anxiety disorders,
half improved within six
months, after only three com-
puter sessions.

"Some people find it easier
to talk to a computer because
of the stigma and embarrass-
ment they feel about having
these problems. They also
worry they might end up on a
psychiatric ward," said Dr Jim
White, presenting the findings
at the British Psychological
Society conference in Belfast.

Dr White, a clinical psychol-
ogist from the Lansdown Clinic
in Glasgow, said that when all
the expertise was with the spe-
cialist people felt helpless. "We
think people's conditions im-
proved because they were able
to take control of their ill-
ness and help themselves. The
computer treatment gave them

BY CHERRY NORTON
Health Correspondent

a lot of information, they
understood more about their
condition and their self-esteem
improved."

Most of the 26 people who
took part in the study had been
ill for over eight years and had
seen a psychologist. The trial in-
volved three 40-minute ses-
sions spread over three weeks.
Patients then went away with
their self-help sheets and were
assessed six months later.

Treatment sessions began
with a video clip of the actor
James MacPherson - who
stars on TV in *Tuggart* - in-
troducing the system and talk-
ing about how stress and an-
xiety is part of everyone's life.
Patients did sessions alone, re-
sponding to the computer's
voice by touching the screen.

In the first session patients
were assessed for the severity
of their condition. They were
asked about panic attacks, pho-
bias and insomnia. If anxiety
levels were low, a computer
voice told them their levels
were normal and encouraged

them to stop the programme.

Patients who showed sui-
cidal tendencies were auto-
matically reported by the computer
to the clinical psychology team.
(When the CD is available for
use at home the computer will
tell those with suicidal tenden-
cies to book an appointment
with their doctor immediately.)

The second two sessions of
the trial covered relaxation
techniques, controlling stress-
ful thoughts and how to deal
with panic attacks, as well as
hints on getting a good night's
sleep and how to avoid worry-
ing about future events.

One in six adults in the UK
suffers from severe depression
but 95 per cent of patients
only ever see their GP. Dr White
believes computer treatment
could reach many people and
cut the use of anti-depressants.

He says: "We would like to
get to a situation where if some-
one goes to the GP for the first
time and says they are feeling
depressed, instead of the GP
giving them anti-depressants
they might be able to say there
are other treatments and give
them a CD-Rom."

Kennel 'feng shui' helps stray dogs find a home

IT IS feng shui for stray dogs.
Psychologists have found that
using certain tricks to change the
environment in which rescued
dogs live makes them more de-
sirable to potential owners.

The research presented yester-
day at the conference showed
that the dogs' chances of finding
a permanent home improved
when their bed was put at the
front of the cage and when they
were given a toy.

"Potential owners are more
likely to buy a dog that looks
lively and fun than one who is
moping at the back of his cage,"
said Deborah Wells, of Queen's
University, Belfast, who con-
ducted the study.

"Attractive dogs such as
labradors and border collies

BY CHERRY NORTON

do not have a problem finding
someone to take them home but
many of the dogs that end up in
shelters are not so attractive.
Black mongrels and rottweilers
tend to stay in the shelter for
much longer," Dr Wells said.

Every year thousands of
dogs end up in the care of their
local animal rescue shelter.
Most are destroyed because
they cannot be rehoused. Many
are overlooked because their
behaviour is considered unde-
sirable - they bark aggressively
or lie down, looking very
lethargic. In some shelters dogs
are put to sleep within a week
of arriving because no one has
taken them home.

The study examined the be-
havioural changes of 120 shel-
tered dogs when their
environment was altered. The
researchers increased the
number of people who visited
the dogs, tied a chewy hoop to
the front of the cage and moved
the bed to the front.

The increase in the number
of visitors improved the dogs'
behaviour the most. "Social
stimulation encouraged the
dogs to spend more time stand-
ing and increased their activi-
ty," Dr Wells said. "Certain
shelters have taken some of the
ideas. They have made a more
favourable impression, which
has increased the number of
dogs that have been purchased
from rescue shelters."

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ANNUAL			MONTHLY					
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90 Day Notice Account*								
£100,000+	5.05	4.80	4.80	4.70	4.55	4.46	3.57	
£50,000+	4.65	4.40	4.40	4.31	4.15	4.07	3.36	
£25,000+	4.30	4.05	4.05	3.98	3.80	3.74	2.99	
£10,000+	3.90	3.65	3.65	3.59	3.40	3.35	2.68	
60 Day Notice Account*								
£50,000+	4.25	4.00	3.25	3.20	3.00	2.96	2.37	
£25,000+	3.95	3.70	2.95	2.91	2.70	2.67	2.13	
£10,000+	3.65	3.40	2.65	2.62	2.40	2.37	1.90	
£5,000+	2.60	2.35	1.60	1.59	1.35	1.34	1.07	
£500+	2.10	1.85	1.15	1.14	0.85	0.85	0.68	
Flexible Savings Account								
£10,000+	2.10	1.85	1.85	1.83	1.60	1.59	1.27	
£5,000+	1.60	1.35	1.35	1.34	1.10	1.09	0.88	
£250+	1.40	1.10	1.15	1.14	0.85	0.85	0.68	
Below £250	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.16	
ANNUAL			QUARTERLY					
Instant Gold Savings Account*								
£50,000+	4.50	4.15	4.25	4.18	3.90	3.84	3.08	
£25,000+	4.00	3.65	3.75	3.70	3.40	3.36	2.69	
£10,000+	3.65	3.30	3.40	3.36	3.05	3.02	2.41	
£2,500+	3.25	3.00	3.00	2.97	2.75	2.72	2.18	
ANNUAL			QUARTERLY					
PREVIOUS AER/GROSS %	NEW AER/GROSS %	NEW NET %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS GROSS %	NEW AER %	NEW GROSS %	NEW NET %	
Regular Savings Account								
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£100+	1.50	1.25						
£1+	1.30	1.05						
ANNUAL			QUARTERLY					
PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %	NEW TAX FREE %		
Mini Cash ISA** Effective from 14th April 1999								
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£1,000+	5.38	5.50	5.38	5.50	5.13	5.25		
£10+	4.38	4.50				4.25		
TESSA ISA** Effective from 14th April 1999								
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£1,000+	5.38	5.50	5.38	5.50	5.13	5.25		
£10+	4.38	4.50				4.25		
PREVIOUS AER/TAX FREE %			NEW AER/TAX FREE %		PREVIOUS AER/GROSS %		NEW AER/GROSS %	NEW NET %
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Pakistan plans response to missile test



The Agni-II missile being launched yesterday

BREAKING A five-year moratorium yesterday, India successfully launched its second intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) Agni-II from a new test site off Orissa on the west coast. The 60ft-long missile, which is designed to carry a nuclear payload and can reach any part of Pakistan and deep inside China, was fired at 9.47am local time and travelled 1,200 miles before plunging into the Bay of Bengal.

Everything about yesterday's launch was controversial - even the new testing site, which is close to the nesting ground of hundreds of thousands of olive ridley turtles. Environmentalists have protested bitterly about at testing at such

BY PETER POPHAM
in Delhi

a sensitive spot, but to no avail.

In adherence to the Lahore Accord signed by the Indian and Pakistani prime ministers in February, India gave Pakistan advance notice of the test. The Indian Defence Minister, George Fernandes, said that the launch of the missile would make India immune to any external threats.

But the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Sartaj Aziz, said the test had "threatened" (Pakistan's) security and endangered the fragile security balance in the region. Agni-II introduces a new weapon system in the region, he said,

which was a matter of "deep concern. We are disappointed and concerned," he said. "We had decided on restraint. But now Pakistan will have to examine its options on how to respond." Analysts believe it is almost certain that Pakistan will answer India's move by testing its own Shaheen missile.

American officials also voiced their disappointment. A spokesman at the US embassy in Delhi said the US regretted the move, which was "out of keeping with recent developments".

Within India, however, even opposition parties, including Congress, fell over each other in their haste to congratulate the Indian scientists. A senior

figure in the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which heads the ruling coalition, described the test as "yet another feather in the cap of [Prime Minister] Atal Bihari Vajpayee and his government."

In a television address to the nation, Mr Vajpayee described Agni-II as a "vindication of our steadfast commitment to self-reliance. In a rapidly changing security environment, India cannot depend on others to defend her. Agni is a symbol of the resurgent India which is able to say, yes, we will stand on our own feet." The test, he went on, was "purely a defensive step. It is not meant for aggression against any nation. Rather Agni is proof of our de-

termination to strengthen our national security so ... we can defend ourselves."

Mr Vajpayee reiterated that India remained committed to "minimum deterrence, to no first use of nuclear weapons and never to use them against non-nuclear weapon states. Let us together," he concluded rousing, "make the 21st century India's century."

As long ago as 15 December last year, Mr Vajpayee announced that Agni-II would soon be tested. But the big day was postponed several times for various reasons, most memorably because of his own historic bus trip across the Pakistani border to tie the knot of trust and friendship with his

Pakistani counterpart, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

Now the deed has finally been done, and the timing is significant. Mr Vajpayee's government faces one of its toughest weeks since it came to power over a year ago: one of the fragile coalition's key partners, a party from the southern state of Tamil Nadu led by a former film star called Jayalalitha, is almost certain to pull out of the government. It is therefore conceivable that this could be Mr Vajpayee's last week in power - and he has made clear that he does not intend to fight for another term in office. If so, he has clearly decided to go out in the same way he came in - with a bang.



Fernandes: India 'immune to any external threats'

Niger army to choose new leader

THE POLITICAL future of Niger, whose assassinated president was buried yesterday, lies in the hands of the military after no clear succession candidate emerged from weekend talks.

President Ibrahim Barre Maïnassara, who came to power in a 1996 military coup and repressed political opposition, was killed at Niamey, his home village, on the border with Nigeria. He was shot dead on Friday at the airport of the capital, Niamey. He had been due to fly to the neighbouring West African state of Burkina Faso en route this week to a summit in Libya of six states in the region, known as Comessa.

In the Libyan capital, Tripoli, as in other countries of Comessa - Mali, Chad and Sudan - flags were flown at half mast yesterday. In a televised address, Colonel Mouammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader who is president of the group, paid tribute to Maïnassara and urged Niger to "safeguard its democratic gains and build on them".

Reports from Niamey indicated that the mood was calm after Friday's shooting, in which up to five people died. Sources said Maïnassara, known as "IBM", was shot by the airport ceremonial guard on the orders of his own head of security, Col Ibrahim Malamanka.

On the eve of his assassination, the president had reportedly been asked to resign by army chiefs, but had refused.

Yesterday's funeral was attended by the Chief of General Staffs, Colonel Moussa

BY ALEX DUVAL SMITH
in Tripoli

Moumouni Djermakoye, but not by Colonel Malamanka.

Maïnassara was the Chief of General Staffs when he came to power in a January 1996 coup, which deposed President Mahamane Ousmane, claiming his predecessor had failed to address the country's political and economic problems.

Later that year, Maïnassara was elected president in a poll in which he sacked the electoral commission and locked up opposition leaders. During his rule, the army and police clamped down on opponents. There were street battles in April last year when demonstrators burnt cars and military vehicles. Niger is a vast country with a population of about eight million, but most of it is desert. The former French colony exports uranium but is largely a subsistence-farming economy.

The creation last year of Comessa - which Eritrea is also expected to join - has been a boon to the country and to the organisation's other impoverished members, because of Libya's oil-based wealth. The Comessa countries were the first last year to decide to defy the United Nations ban on air travel to Libya, imposed over the 1988 Lockerbie bombing. They were later backed by the Organisation of African Unity. Last week the UN suspended the ban when two Libyans accused of planting the bomb were handed over for trial.



Tuaregs in Ouargla, 500 miles from Algiers, with a poster of Abdelaziz Bouteflika, tipped to win Thursday's presidential poll

Algerians hope election will heal the wounds of civil war

THEY WILL not be fully "free and fair" - certainly not as Western democracies understand the term. Indeed, the winner to all intents and purposes is already known. Nor can they on their own resolve the country's huge problems. Even so, after seven years of civil war, this week's elections to find a successor to the outgoing President Liamine Zouari could prove a small step towards normal politics in Algeria.

Polls have been open since Saturday for the 680,000 Algerian voters resident in France. On Thursday they will be joined by the 15 million eligible voters in Algeria. And when the votes are counted, it would be a miracle if the winner is not Abdelaziz Bouteflika, the 1970s foreign minister now backed by the former ruling party, the FLN - and more important, by the army generals who ultimately run the country.

The elections represent the

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

best hope thus far for national reconciliation since the start of the ferocious war between the regime and Islamic fundamentalist insurgents in 1992 after the cancellation of elections that the subsequently banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was about to win.

Seven years and the death of more than 70,000 people later, the government appears to have gained a decisive upper hand. Though there are still sporadic deadly attacks - mostly in the countryside and against members of the security forces - the killing rate has dropped dramatically.

But the price has been the loss of most of what little public confidence there was that Algeria's rulers could tackle the country's problems. The election campaign has been low-key to the point of listlessness; the main fear is that great portions

of the electorate, convinced nothing will change, will not bother to vote, rendering the result meaningless.

If so, it would be a pity - because for once the voters have a real choice of candidates and platforms. If Mr Bouteflika is the man of the establishment and *le pouvoir* - as the cabal of top military officers and business figures that runs the country is known - he is not the official candidate of the army.

Three of his opponents, meanwhile, offer a genuine opposition. They are Mouloud Hamrouche, the former reformist prime minister between 1989 and 1991; the former foreign minister Ahmed Taleh Ibrahim, who has been formally backed by the leaders abroad of the FIS; and Hocine Ait Ahmed, the 78-year-old socialist with a reputation for spotless integrity, and a prestige conferred by his place among *les neuf historiques*, the nine

original leaders of the 1954-62 independence war against the French. If Mr Bouteflika does not win outright on the first ballot, his run-off opponent will be one of these.

Even so, the "free and fair" poll promised by President Zouari is unlikely to come about. He himself was levered prematurely out of office, a sign that Algeria's secretive and manipulative ways still flourish. Several would-be candidates were barred from standing for no justifiable apparent reason, while no foreign observers will monitor proceedings.

"Without monitors, even if the vote is really fair it risks not being accepted as such," warns George Joffe, director of studies at the Royal Institute for International Affairs.

Though several candidates had asked for observers, foreign governments, including France and the United States, anxious not to jeopardise their eco-

nomie interests in Algeria, did not press the point with the regime.

There are also worries over fraudulent returns from the mobile ballot boxes used in rural areas, and the voting procedures in army barracks, at a time when the security forces have to deal with a continuing, albeit much diminished, security problem. Above all there is the dilemma posed by the Islamic movement.

Though the FIS may not be the force it was, it is still one without which no election in Algeria can be truly representative. The endorsement of Taleh Ibrahim is a gamble and, in the view of some observers, a mistake. "If he doesn't do well, it would be a major loss of face for the FIS," Saad Djebbar, a leading Algerian analyst says.

"But if he does really well, it will play into the army's hands. They will simply warn it's 1991-92 all over again."

Rhinos reach record number

BY PETER POPHAM
in Delhi

THE ONE-HORNED rhino lives. Seven months after 39 of the highly endangered leathery behemoths were swept to their deaths by catastrophic flooding that forced hundreds more to flee, a census completed at Kaziranga National Park in Assam, north-east India, on Saturday revealed an increase in rhino numbers of more than 40 per cent over five years.

Elsewhere in Assam, too, where the rhinos are less rigorously protected from poachers, the numbers are up. Saturday's census at Kaziranga found 1,649 rhinos, while the rest of the state has another 120. A senior forest official said proudly: "This is the best figure Assam can boast of since the animal census started in 1908."

Thirty years ago, rhinos seemed on the brink of extermination in the park, the principal reserve for one-horned rhinos in the world. Poached mainly for their horn, which is highly valued in Chinese traditional medicine, their numbers in 1966 were down to 386. Levels of protection unmatched in any other park in the subcontinent led to a recovery, with 1,229 animals counted in 1991. But in 1993 numbers fell to 1,164.

Kaziranga is in the southern flood plain of the Brahmaputra River, and in last year's monsoon flooding was so severe that most of the animals had to take refuge in unprotected areas, crossing a road used by lorries. There were fears that the park's wildlife, which includes tiger, elephants, deer and wild pigs as well as rhino, might be decimated. An international alert galvanised supporters around the world, and now the park is celebrating a change in its fortunes.

Much of the success of Kaziranga is due not to hunting but to its rangers, who patrol 24 hours a day. Last year poachers killed 34 rhinos across the state of Assam, while in Kaziranga at least four poachers were killed by forest guards. A reputation for ruthlessness has undoubtedly aided the guards' efforts.

"In the past we used to arrest poachers and after a few days they were out again on bail," one forest official said. "But now if we find anybody inside the park with arms, we just shoot them."

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IN BRIEF

Author to be Tokyo's governor

A NATIONALIST writer, Shintaro Ishihara, looked set to become governor of Tokyo region after the first results in local elections were reported yesterday. Mr Ishihara, author of the 1989 book, *The Japan That Can Say No*, is a vocal opponent of the United States military presence in Japan. Tokyo has 9.7 million eligible voters.

Hutu leader seeks forgiveness

RWANDA'S HUTU Prime Minister Pierre-Celestin Rwigyema has asked that his party be forgiven for its role in the 1994 genocide. Mr Rwigyema wanted his Republican Democratic Movement to be forgiven "for the divisive ideology of some of its leaders who ... led the massacres".

Egyptian train crash kills three

RESCUE WORKERS cut through wreckage yesterday to pull bodies from the twisted metal of two trains that had collided on Saturday evening in northern Egypt. At least three were killed and 49 people injured in the accident in the Dakhalia province.

Israel warns riot-torn Nazareth

ISRAEL HAS threatened to suspend the council in Nazareth after Christian-Muslim battles over a plan to build a plaza to accommodate Christian pilgrims for the millennium. Muslims want the site for a mosque. The dispute over the half-acre plot is now in the courts.

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2. authorising the payment of £48,836.10 of the said sum out of capital.

The statutory declaration of the Directors of the Company and the auditors' report required by the Companies Act 1985 Section 173(5) are available for inspection at the registered office of the Company at 34 High East Street, Dorchester, Dorset.

Any creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following the date of the resolution apply to the court under the Companies Act 1985 Section 176 for an order cancelling the resolution or for other relief.

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Turkey launches offensive on PKK

A TURKISH election candidate was abducted from his home by Kurdish rebels as thousands of Turkish troops swept through northern Iraq in pursuit of Kurdish guerrillas.

As tension rose, the captured rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan urged his Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) to lay down its arms until after the polls.

Some 5,000 troops backed by Cobra helicopters and F-16 fighters poured into the Kurdish-controlled enclave last week to attack PKK bases there.

Forty-four guerrillas were killed and 15 taken alive. PKK arms and ammunition were captured, including two Russian-made surface-to-air rockets. Ten Turkish soldiers died in the fighting.

"A new grouping of the PKK was spotted over there, on the Iraqi side," the Turkish Prime Minister, Bülent Ecevit, said yesterday.

"So, naturally enough, measures are being taken against that. These operations will continue from time to time until we achieve a result." Military officials refused to confirm reports that the latest operation had ended.

Six guerrillas and two soldiers were killed in separate clashes in the Turkish provinces of Tunceli and Batman.

The PKK has carried out a

14-year campaign of violence and terror to win Kurdish autonomy in south-east Turkey. Ankara frequently sends troops into the mountains of northern Iraq to hunt down the guerrillas, especially in spring, when the snow clears.

But this latest incursion was almost certainly prompted by a drastic upsurge in PKK violence. Bomb attacks have swept the country as the PKK steps up its campaign of terror in the wake of Mr Ocalan's capture. In the worst, 13 people died when an Istanbul shopping centre was firebombed.

A parliamentarian is believed to have been kidnapped by the PKK. According to the semi-official Anatolia News Agency, Osman Dara and his brother were snatched from Mr Dara's home near the Iranian and Iraqi borders by suspected PKK guerrillas on Friday night. Two other relatives who were abducted have since been released. Local police were unable to comment.

The PKK has declared it will attack tourist destinations and warned holidaymakers to stay away. The Association of Turkish Travel Agencies says 200,000 European tourists have cancelled trips to Turkey since Mr Ocalan was captured.

On Saturday the Kurdish leader released a statement



President Suleyman Demirel of Turkey with Kosovo refugees yesterday in Tirana, Albania. In northern Iraq, thousands of Turkish troops hacked by jets and helicopter gunships were pursuing Kurdish guerrillas.

through his lawyers urging the PKK to call a temporary ceasefire. "At least until the attitude of the new parliament and government are seen, a political policy based on social peace, forgiveness and brotherhood must be adopted," he said.

Mr Ocalan is awaiting a trial due to start on 30 April on a Turkish prison island. Authorities hold him responsible for the deaths of 30,000 in the fighting between the PKK and security forces. Increased PKK violence has been in contrast

with statements from Mr Ocalan, who says he intends to base his defence on a series of unilateral PKK ceasefires ignored by the Turkish government. He says he now wants to negotiate a political settlement. Turkish authorities say

they will never negotiate with him. Kurds are denied recognition as a minority in Turkey. Kurdish-language broadcasting is illegal and the language cannot be taught in schools.

Braveheart strikes chord with Kurds

EUROPEAN TIMES
ISTANBUL

WHEN ABDURRAHMAN Celik saw the film *Braveheart*, he wrote a Kurdish translation. "Kurdish people identify with *Braveheart*," he says. "It is similar to our own situation."

Mr Celik is a Kurdish poet and the Istanbul area of Istanbul is the last place you'd expect to find him. Once the Ottoman diplomatic quarter, Istanbul is now Istanbul's answer to Leicester Square in London. American fast-food joints and cinemas showing Hollywood blockbusters flank the grand old consulates. This is modern Turkey's image of itself: a Western-style consumer society.

But in dingy offices overlooking the Istanbul crowds, Mr Celik and his friends are working to preserve a very different culture. They edit *Brightness of Life*, a monthly literary magazine published in Kurdish. The language is at the heart of the struggle between Turkey's authorities and autonomy-seeking Kurds, which has cost more than 30,000 lives. The Kurds always point to the restrictions on their language as evidence of Turkish repression. Kurdish cannot be taught in schools, and broadcasting it is illegal. So to find Kurdish literature being openly published on one of Istanbul's busiest streets is a surprise. "Because we are on Istanbul's Turkish authorities try to show Europe they don't forbid anything," says Mr Celik, 27. "But it's a big lie."

He is sipping a glass of tea in the smoke-filled cafe of the Mesopotamia Culture Centre (MKM), which publishes

Brightness of Life. The centre was founded in 1991 by Kurd and Turk intellectuals to preserve Kurdish culture, which the MKM says the government is repressing.

Mr Celik complains that the MKM faces a constant battle with the authorities. He claims he and 62 others working here were arrested and held without charge for three days after the Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan was captured in February.

Branches of the MKM in the south-east have been closed by the police, says Mr Celik. And in the Istanbul centre, the doors to the main meeting room are sealed - with police notices on them. According to Mr Celik, it was used only for concerts of Kurdish music and for showing films, including *Braveheart*.

The MKM's directors insist the centre has no connections with Mr Ocalan's Kurdish Workers' Party. The MKM, they say, is a target for "state-organised nationalism".

The centre may be a meeting place for Kurds, but Turks come here too. "We feel the same as the people who work here," says Necla Tas, one of four Turkish women sitting at a table. "I think it's nonsense to talk of Kurdish independence, but Kurdish culture must be allowed to live in Turkey, just as Turkish culture lives."

Mr Celik is determined that his contribution to Kurdish culture will live. "I'm hoping to have a book published one day. I haven't written enough poems yet, but maybe next year."

Iranians release sex case German

BY APESHIN VALINEJAD
in Tehran



A GERMAN businessman who was jailed last year for having sex with an Iranian woman has been released on bail, but must stay in Iran, a German official said yesterday.

Helmut Hofer, 54, was "in good physical and mental health", said Bodo Hombach, the chief of staff of Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, in Tehran. Mr Hombach refused to say where Hofer was staying or to answer other questions about him, saying only that "Mr Hofer will not be going to Germany with us because we respect the laws of Iran".

Hofer was sentenced to death in January 1998 after being arrested for having sex with an unmarried 26-year-old medical student. Iranian law punishes sex between unmarried Muslims with flogging but, if the man is not Muslim, he faces the death penalty. The Justice Ministry ordered a retrial after Hofer insisted he had converted to Islam before having sex with the woman. A second court sentenced him to death in October. But the

Supreme Court annulled the death sentence in February and ordered a second retrial before a different judge. Hofer's bail was set at 500 million rials (£105,000). The date for the next trial has not yet been fixed.

Hofer was released on bail on Saturday night and would not be allowed to leave the country until the case was resolved, according to the Islamic Republic News Agency.

In an interview with German ARD television recorded shortly after his release and broadcast yesterday Hofer declared

his innocence and expressed relief at the decision. "This has given me my life back again after two years behind bars," he said, adding that he was aware it was not a final ruling.

Hofer's detention has been a sore point between Germany and Iran. His release was expected to help to mend ties, which were strained by an earlier diplomatic incident in 1996 when a German court ruled that Iranian officials had ordered the murder of Iranian Kurdish dissidents at a Berlin restaurant. Soon after word of the release, it was announced that the Iranian President, Mohammad Khatami, had accepted an invitation to visit Germany. "I am confident that a new stage has started in relations between Iran and Germany," President Khatami said. A date had not yet been set.

President Khatami said yesterday he regretted the assassination of staff, Lieutenant-General Ali Sayyad Shirazi, Iran's main rebel group, the Mujahideen Khalq, has claimed responsibility for killing the general, who was shot as he drove his son to school.

Somalis appeal to UN over Ethiopian raids

BY LUCY HANNAN
in Mogadishu

ETHIOPIAN FORCES have captured the Somali border towns of Bulahow and Dolo using heavily armed troops and armoured personnel carriers.

The soldiers have, according to Somali leaders, taken over the running of the towns and arrested Somali administrative and security personnel since a surprise attack on 8 April.

In what amounts to Somalia's first national protest after being without a central government for nine years, faction leaders yesterday sent a letter of condemnation to the United Nations Security Council and the Organisation of African Unity.

The former arch-enemies Ali Mahdi Mohamed and Hussein

Mohamed Aidede appealed jointly from Mogadishu for urgent action by the Security Council to halt what they termed Ethiopian aggression.

The letter was also signed by the faction leader Omar Haji, who comes from the border region. According to the letter, Ethiopia has been "destabilising and invading Somalia" since August 1996 and has been "distributing arms... in violation of the UN Security Council arms embargo on Somalia".

Ethiopia previously justified repeated armed incursions into Somalia by citing border instability, particularly in relation to Islamic extremists known to

operate in the area. Displaced people arriving in Mogadishu over the past few months after fleeing the border fighting say Ethiopian forces have strafed villages with helicopter gunships, destroyed property, made arrests, and carried out door-to-door searches.

Somali leaders accuse warring Ethiopia and Eritrea of "bringing their battle to Somalia" by arming different factions and interfering in the country's already volatile politics.

Somalia has been without a central government for almost a decade.

It still suffers fighting and factionalism in its devastated capital six years after failed international military and humanitarian intervention.

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£100,000+	9.05	4.80	3.84	4.80	4.70	4.55	4.46	3.57
£50,000+	4.65	4.40	3.52	4.40	4.31	4.15	4.07	3.26
£25,000+	4.30	4.05	3.24	4.05	3.98	3.80	3.74	2.99
£10,000+	3.90	3.65	2.92	3.65	3.59	3.40	3.35	2.68

Flexible Savings Account (formerly Instant Savings Account)	ANNUAL			QUARTERLY				
	PREVIOUS AER/GROSS %	NEW AER/GROSS %	NEW NET %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS GROSS %	NEW AER %	NEW GROSS %	NEW NET %
£10,000+	2.10	1.85	1.48	1.85	1.83	1.60	1.59	1.27
£5,000+	1.60	1.35	1.08	1.35	1.34	1.10	1.09	0.88
£250+	1.40	1.10	0.88	1.15	1.14	0.85	0.85	0.68
Below £250	0.20	0.20	0.16	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.16

Instant Gold Savings Account	ANNUAL			HALF YEARLY			MONTHLY		
	PREVIOUS AER/GROSS %	NEW AER/GROSS %	NEW NET %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS GROSS %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS GROSS %	NEW NET %	
£50,000+	4.50	4.15	3.32	4.25	4.18	3.90	3.84	3.08	
£25,000+	4.00	3.65	2.92	3.75	3.70	3.40	3.36	2.69	
£10,000+	3.65	3.30	2.64	3.40	3.36	3.05	3.02	2.41	
£2,500+	3.25	3.00	2.40	3.00	2.97	2.75	2.72	2.18	

Regular Savings Account	ANNUAL			HALF YEARLY			MONTHLY		
	PREVIOUS AER/GROSS %	NEW AER/GROSS %	NEW NET %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS GROSS %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS GROSS %	NEW NET %	
£900+	1.75	1.50	1.20	1.75	1.74	1.50	1.49	1.19	
£100+	1.50	1.25	1.00	1.50	1.49	1.25	1.24	0.99	
£1+	1.30	1.05	0.84	1.30	1.30	1.05	1.04	0.83	

Asset Management Service Investment Account - paid monthly	PREVIOUS AER %			PREVIOUS GROSS %			NEW AER %			NEW GROSS %			NEW NET %		
	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %
£100,000+	4.95	4.95	4.84	4.70	4.60	3.68									
£50,000+	4.55	4.46	3.37												
£25,000+	4.20	4.12	3.10												
£10,000+	3.80	3.74	2.79												
Below £10,000+	1.35	1.34	1.10	1.09	0.88										

Young Savers Account - paid quarterly	PREVIOUS AER %			PREVIOUS GROSS %			NEW AER %			NEW GROSS %			NEW NET %		
	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %
£1+	2.78	2.75	2.52	2.50	2.00										

Mini Cash ISA**	PREVIOUS AER %			PREVIOUS TAX FREE %			NEW AER %			NEW TAX FREE %		
	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %
£3,000+	5.88	6.00	5.67	5.75	5.88	5.63	5.75					
£1,000+	5.38	5.50	5.11	5.25	5.38	5.13	5.25					
£100+	4.38	4.50	4.13	4.25	4.38	4.13	4.25					

TESSA ISA**	PREVIOUS AER %			PREVIOUS TAX FREE %			NEW AER %			NEW TAX FREE %		
	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %
£3,000+	5.88	6.00	5.67	5.75	5.88	5.63	5.75					
£1,000+	5.38	5.50	5.11	5.25	5.38	5.13	5.25					
£100+	4.38	4.50	4.13	4.25	4.38	4.13	4.25					

Headway Account - paid monthly	PREVIOUS AER %			PREVIOUS GROSS %			NEW AER %			NEW GROSS %			NEW NET %		
	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %	PREVIOUS AER %	PREVIOUS TAX FREE %	NEW AER %
£500+	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.60										
£250+	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.40										
£100+	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.20										
£50+	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.18										
£1+	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.08										

Details of current savings rates are available by calling 0845 300 0102. Alternatively, visit our website - www.lloydsbank.co.uk

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Telecom Italia defence collapses

AN ATTEMPT by Telecom Italia to fend off Olivetti's \$65bn (£40bn) hostile bid collapsed at the weekend as shareholders failed to turn out on the third consecutive day in Turin to vote on part of its defence strategy. Representatives of just over 17 per cent of the stock, short of the 20 per cent required, attended a meeting on Sunday, following a failure on Saturday to reach a quorum of one-third. Commentators said the meeting's failure meant Telecom's defensive plans, including the conversion of savings shares, a share buyback and the buyout of the rest of its mobile unit TIM were, in effect, dead.

Goldman top five to share \$700m

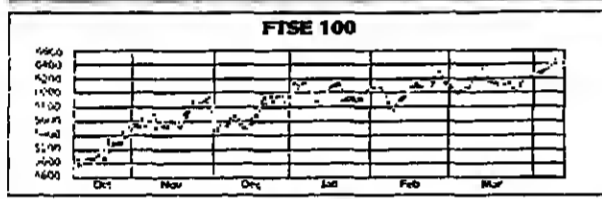


GOLDMAN SACHS, the US investment bank coming to the stock market next month, will reveal today that its top five partners will pocket shares worth about \$700m (£435m) from the float. Details in the pathfinder prospectus will show that Hank Paulson, the chairman (pictured), will be the largest beneficiary, with a stake valued at \$200m. John Thornton, the co-chief operating officer, is in line for \$140m, along with the other chief operating officer, John Thain. A small portion of the equity will be handed to all Goldman's 13,000 staff. The prospectus will also show that the indicative price of the float has been raised to \$45 to \$55 per share, valuing the firm at \$25bn.

Life gifts go electronic today

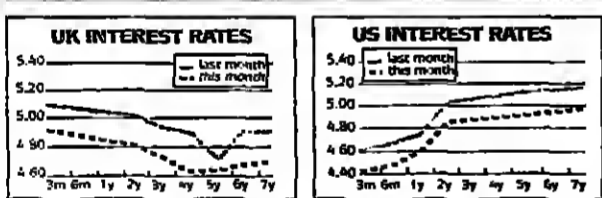
THE ELECTRONIC trading of gifts will start today at Life, the futures and options market. The move to screen-based trading is part of a \$50m modernisation programme by the market. Equity options started screen-based trading in November. Bond and other futures will convert to the new system next month.

STOCK MARKETS



Index	Close	Wk's ch	Wk's %	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	4472.50	142.80	3.26	4996.1	4599.2	2.472
FTSE 250	5563.50	110.20	2.02	5970.5	4247.6	3.186
FTSE 350	3069.90	69.70	2.32	3073.9	2110.4	2.537
FTSE All Share	2968.29	62.57	2.15	2971.79	2143.53	2.584
FTSE SmallCap	2423.30	18.30	0.76	2793.8	1834.4	3.564
FTSE Biotech	1320.90	15.60	1.20	1517.1	1046.2	3.935
FTSE AIM	873.30	4.80	0.55	1146.9	761.3	1.175
FTSE Europe 100	3003.76	72.88	2.49	3079.27	2018.15	1.93
FTSE Europe 300	1294.54	33.46	2.65	1332.07	880.63	1.873
Dow Jones	10173.84	341.33	3.47	10209.08	7400.3	1.557
Nikkei	16955.03	545.44	3.27	16955.03	12787.9	0.729
Hang Seng	11314.10	841.17	7.99	11889.36	6544.29	2.974
Dax	5124.18	209.59	4.27	6212.83	3833.71	1.597
SEK 500	1348.35	54.63	4.22	1348.08	923.32	1.198
Nasdaq	2593.06	99.69	4.00	2596.23	1357.09	0.275
Toronto 300	6889.50	264.39	3.99	7837.7	5320.9	1.524
Brazil Bovespa	11250.56	651.41	6.09	12339.14	4575.69	3.133
Belgium Bel20	3330.59	65.34	2.00	3713.21	2696.26	1.978
Amsterdam EEX	337.73	4.10	1.22	608.65	356.58	1.862
France CAC 40	4362.14	163.64	4.02	4404.96	2881.21	1.957
Spain IBEX 35	3576.00	149.00	4.21	3917.0	2617.5	1.05
Australia All Ordinaries	10101.90	361.20	3.71	10989.8	6969.9	1.73
India S&P 500	3356.91	70.03	1.33	5581.7	3732.57	1.546
S Korea Comp	687.42	40.64	6.28	690.52	277.37	1.004
Australia ASX	3060.00	86.60	2.91	3061.6	2396.7	3.028

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year	30 year	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	5.31	-2.24	5.25	-2.29	4.39	-1.36	4.39
US	5.00	-0.66	5.21	-0.57	5.04	0.54	5.46
Japan	0.17	-0.51	0.23	0.47	1.62	-0.33	2.37
Germany	2.66	-0.97	2.72	-1.20	3.85	-1.00	4.79

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Prescott to gain control of rail funding

JOHN PRESCOTT, the Deputy Prime Minister with responsibilities for railways, will this week be given the green light to pay the Government's subsidy directly to Railtrack.

The move would give Mr Prescott direct control over Railtrack and infuriate the company, which has warned the change would cripple its ability to borrow money. It would also represent the biggest shake-up in the industry since the Railways Act started the privatisation process in 1993.

The outgoing Rail Regulator,

By PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

Chris Bolt, will tell Mr Prescott there is nothing to prevent him changing the current system under which train operators receive subsidies but then hand much of it to Railtrack in the form of access charges. But he will warn that such a change could only be made as each passenger franchise comes up for renewal or through a new rail Bill – something that is growing increasingly unlikely this parliamentary session.

Railtrack warned that if Mr Prescott goes ahead with the plan it would scare off City investors and hamper its ability to raise money. A spokesman said: "We certainly believe this would be a retrograde step and would cause concern with the financial markets."

"The markets aren't keen to lend money to people who rely on direct government funding."

The company has raised £650m on the bond markets in the past four months. It believes it is better for the market – in the form of the 25 train companies – to determine investment policy rather than a central body. Railtrack also criticised the view that it makes excessive profits for its shareholders. "Last year we paid dividends of £110m but spent £125bn so we are not bleeding the industry to pay our shareholders," the company said.

Mr Prescott confirmed that the proposal, which would give him far greater control over the privatised track and signalling monopoly, was still on the table. "A report is being prepared for me by the regulator and I expect to have it shortly and have discussions about it," he said.

The Rail Regulator's advice is confined to legal and technical matters. Mr Bolt's letter confirms the advice he gave Mr Prescott in a conversation in January and follows the opinion given by his predecessor, John Swift QC, in his review of Railtrack's charges in July 1998.

Mr Bolt gives way to the new regulator, Tom Winsor, on 5 July. Mr Winsor's views are not known, although he has made it clear he believes he already has substantial powers that his predecessors did not use. The Association of Train Operators warned a review of the charging structure could harm Railtrack's investment programme. A spokesman said: "We would hope they would ensure that money currently coming into the rail industry from the Government remains in the industry."

Railtrack's shares have fallen from a 1999 high of £16.01 to £13.56 at the close of last week in the wake of growing fears about the regulatory review.

Tesco plans 10,000 jobs as Sainsbury cuts back

THE WIDENING gap between Britain's two largest supermarket groups will be underlined this week when Tesco announces the creation of 10,000 new jobs alongside strong trading figures while Sainsbury's is tipped to unveil job cuts at head office.

Tesco is creating the jobs as part of an expansion programme which includes the opening of 20 stores and a host of store extensions.

The jobs will be announced tomorrow alongside a big jump in profits to £870m for the full year. Like-for-like sales are also thought to have been ahead of

By NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

the industry average, at about 3.56 per cent. Sainsbury's, however, is expected to announce sales growth of just 1.5 per cent, excluding new space, when it reports its fourth-quarter figures on Friday. This is below the industry average of just over 2 per cent and further evidence that it is ceding market share to Tesco. Profits are expected to be around £750m.

Sainsbury's yesterday declined to comment on reports of impending job losses at its head office in London. There have been suggestions that Dino Adriano, the company's chief executive, is looking to cut 350 jobs in an attempt to reduce costs and improve efficiency. The losses could include up to 80 senior executives in what is still a slow-moving bureaucracy at central operations. "We don't comment on market speculation," a spokesman said.

Separately, Sainsbury's will today report to staff at the division's head office at Wokingham, Berkshire the results of a strategic review of its Sava-Centre operation. There has been speculation that the office will close, with the loss of 300 jobs, as the company moves the business closer to its main supermarket operation.

Sainsbury's board is under pressure to improve performance following a profits warning in January and the failure of its John Cleese campaign. Finance director Rosemary Thorne is leaving in July and insiders say there could be more top-level changes if the current strategy does not start yielding results.

MAM to expand Merrill branding

By ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

MERCURY ASSET Management, the City fund management group acquired by the American investment bankers Merrill Lynch, is considering dropping the "Mercury" name from some products and markets. It will instead selectively market itself solely under the Merrill brand name.

The group, which is under pressure to justify the \$5.2bn paid for it in November 1997, has already started the process by branding itself in the United States Merrill Lynch Mercury Asset Management, while retaining its traditional name of Mercury Asset Management in the UK.

But any move to drop "Mercury" altogether in new markets will increase the possibility of the Mercury brand ultimately being phased out worldwide in favour of Merrill Lynch.

MAM's co-heads, Stephen Zimmerman and Carol Galley, are keen to take advantage of Merrill's ownership to develop new sales channels as well as expand its business in countries like Germany where the equity culture is starting to take off. They have ambitious plans to launch a range of package products in the next few months which will be sold through other financial intermediaries in Japan, Europe and the US.

There is a recognition that the Mercury brand, while strong in the institutional market both in the UK and the US, is virtually unknown in the retail market in Europe and Asia. A confidential broker's report by the rival firm Morgan Stanley says that with Merrill's backing Mercury is in a strong position to expand its business both in the US institutional market and in retail.

However, the report's author, Henry McVey, says questions remain: "In particular, what is the right way to brand Mercury in the retail market, particularly given that its heritage is in the traditional institutional market?"

Merrill's own US asset management business is one of the largest but it has been losing ground to rivals.

Walker wins Russian lottery

By NIGEL COPE

GEORGE WALKER, the former head of the collapsed Brent Walker leisure empire, has won the licence to operate Russia's first on-line lottery.

Mr Walker, who beat off competition from Camelot, will run the lottery throughout the greater Moscow region, which has a catchment of more than 20 million people.



George Walker: Says the economic crisis has not dampened Russians' appetite for gambling

Mr Walker won the exclusive licence through his TeleTot business, which is a subsidiary of his Premier Teleports company. Premier Teleports has exclusive rights to beam satellite links of horse and dog racing from the UK into the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. It is quoted on the Austrian stock market and has operations in half a dozen countries, including Kazakhstan, Latvia, Georgia and Ukraine.

Speaking by mobile phone from Moscow, where he has lived for the past six years, Mr Walker said the economic crisis in Russia had not dented the Russians' appetite for gambling. "The best example I can give is with our horse racing business. We doubled the price of the satellite link in January and everyone paid it."

The lottery tickets will be issued from the same machines Premier uses for its horse racing operations. The machines are located in bars, bus stations and about 800 banks.

Punters will pay 10 roubles for a ticket with an estimated jackpot of \$1.5m (£940k) and weekly prizes totalling \$3m (£1.8m). The draw will be weekly and featured on a dedicated television show.

It is expected to go twice weekly within six months. Mr Walker said he was considering floating Premier Tele-

Photocopier firm denies 'clocking'

A GROUP of 10 businesses, including a firm of solicitors, a charity and the oldest firm of brokers at Lloyd's of London, is suing a photocopier company for fraudulent misrepresentation and breaches of contract in a case which comes to the High Court this week, writes John Willcock.

The businesses claim they suffered as a result of the actions of salesmen employed by A-Copy (UK) Plc, part of IKON Office Solutions, an American-owned plant that rents out more than 70,000 photocopiers in the UK alone.

Many of the claims of misconduct date back to a company called Southern Business Group, a former UK stock market listed company which was bought by IKON (formerly Alco Standard) in 1995.

The British businesses making the claims against A-Copy include Berkeley Seers Holdings, letting agents based in South-east London; WT Shipping, freight forwarders from Essex; Tyser Holdings, the oldest brokers in Lloyd's of London; Richard Freeman, solicitors of Chelsea; Multi-print Lithographics of South-east London; HW Walden, stationers of Battersea; and Chelsea Financial Services, of west London.

KPMG savages non-executives

ONE OF Britain's most senior accountants has issued a fierce attack on the complicity of non-executive directors after a survey found that they are underpaid, undertrained, too old and ignorant about developments such as the Internet.

The survey, by KPMG, also showed that the ranks of non-executives are overwhelmingly dominated by men. The third four-yearly survey of non-executives, which drew replies from 130 directors, from private companies to FTSE 100 members.

By JOHN WILLCOCK
found that just 6 per cent of the respondents were female. Gerry Acher, senior partner at KPMG's London office, said British businesses faced a desperate lack of the good non-executives needed if they were to keep up with the upheavals of the global marketplace. Companies must ditch the "graveyard" view of this role as being a "nice retirement job involving 10 City lunches a year".

Mr Acher also criticised non-executives for being far too passive in requesting information from their companies. "They act like mushrooms in a cupboard with the door opened every now and then and more mature thrown over them," he said. He added that far too many are in their 50s and 60s, and the IT revolution had completely passed many of them by.

Home lenders offer secret cut-price deals

NEARLY TWO-THIRDS of the UK's mortgage banks are secretly offering cut-price home loans at the last minute to customers who threaten to move to another lender – even when they have already refused them a better deal.

A nationwide survey of mortgage brokers, conducted by The Independent, shows that up to 60 per cent of mortgage lenders are prepared to offer cheap fixed-rate loans to customers threatening to leave.

Of those offered the deals, up to 70 per cent have already asked their lenders for a better rate and been turned down. Typically, the offers are only made after borrowers have applied elsewhere.

The survey, conducted by the Independent Mortgage Collection, a 250-strong network of brokers, is the first clear evidence of the lengths lenders will go to keep customers.

The network said lenders offering the deals – which are not publicised because they could reduce lenders' profits – include Abbey National, NatWest, Halifax, Nationwide and Woolwich. Such offers were rarely made until two years ago.

The survey comes as increasing numbers of borrowers seek to cut payments by switching from high fixed or variable-rate loans to cheaper deals elsewhere, usually low fixed-rate or discount mortgages. However, valuation and legal fees will apply if the switch is to another lender.

Did Alan Bennett write 'The Sweeney'?

I HEAR that Sir Tom Stoppard, the Oscar-winning screenplay co-writer once better known in these parts as a rather good playwright, has acquired a stalker. It is not just the usual common-or-garden kind - the crazed fan with gun, pair of binoculars, empty autograph book and scrapbooks of bulging memorabilia - oh no. Sir Tom's stalker is a biographer.

His name is Ira B Nadel. His most recent work was an authorised biography of Leonard Cohen, the poet and four-note torch singer who once told me, if I may name-drop shamelessly, that he trusted Nadel so much he gave him a spare key to his Malibu apartment.

Mr Nadel did such a good job on Cohen's life that he won a biography award in his native Canada. Now he is on Stoppard's case, tracking down the great man's Czech forebears, his time as a cub reporter on the Western Daily Press in Bristol, the writing of *Jumpers* and *Travesties*, his affairs of the heart, his flirtations with Hollywood...

Like his friend Harold Pinter, Stoppard has a number of classy screenplays to his credit, from his adaptation of his own *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, to *John le Carré's The Russia House*, to his recent triumph with *Shakespeare in Love*. But he has also been involved in one or two less grand productions, which don't appear on his CV. Will he mind people finding out?

"I don't know how Stoppard's fans will respond," one of Nadel's people tells me, "to the news that he was paid £250,000 to do a final burnish on *Lethal Weapon 3*, on the understanding that his name didn't appear on the credits."

Well, this Stoppard fan is delighted to hear it. Movies are democratic affairs, in which the old distinctions between high and low art are most holdily elided, where you can get undiluted woggles of *Romeo and Juliet* and Geoffrey Rush's frantic Carry-On-Willy mugging for the camera in the same film, and win an Oscar for it. And though the *Lethal Weapon* series was more about car crashes and Mel Gibson shooting scores of bad guys while rolling on the floor, there's no shame giving Murtagh and Riggs some zippy dialogue. (Did you spot it? I wondered what was going on when they and the Joe Pesci character starting convers-



JOHN WALSH

ON MONDAY

ing in limericks. But if William Faulkner didn't mind writing lines for Joan Collins to say in *Land of the Pharaohs* (1955), I don't think we can afford to be snooty about these cultural hunk-ups.

And it adds a certain piquancy to the news that a student at Aberystwyth is engaged on an MA thesis on "Social Realism in *The Sweeney*" and is being roundly mocked for doing so. The Seventies TV cop show, famous for having John Thaw grate the words "You're nicked" through whisky-scented teeth every week, is, critics say, just too thick-eared to be a suitable subject for postgraduate study.

How can they be so blind? How can they be sure that, say, Alan Ben-

nett didn't have a hand in the episode when Regan and Carter track down a Bermondsey drug baron and, in the middle of the final shoot-out in a deserted warehouse, stop to listen to a 10-minute monologue from the baron's wife, complaining about the ambiguous patter of her microwave repair man? Personally, I thought it was a dead giveaway.

WHILE WE are talking highbrow and lowbrow, I hope Chris Smith won't be too hard on the BBC Board of Governors when he meets them next month.

According to the Sunday papers, he plans to assault Sir Christopher Bland and his crew with complaints - about yesterday in *Parliament*, about bogus "guests" on *confessional* shows, about the folly of pursuing increased ratings with populist trash. He will apparently remind them that it is their job "to produce quality dramas and documentaries rather than cheap quiz shows".

I like Mr Smith, but he just can't get away with sniping at quiz shows. Surely he understands that the finest expression of a healthy society is the ritual display of how much we know. The riddling question-and-response format is part of an antiphonal tradition stretching back to the Greeks, although you'd never guess it from watching *Never Mind the Buzzcocks*. The literary quiz in particular is an invaluable teaching resource, as when guests are invited to summarise the plot of *Der Mann ohne Eigenschaften* in 15 seconds. The bandying of quotations from classic books is like a religious rite, a sacred incantation of the words, the sentiments, we most treasure.

The literary quiz, in short, is nothing less than the cornerstone of our culture. Not only should it be kept in the schedules, but the participants should be paid several thousand pounds for taking part. By an

odd coincidence, there is one on Radio 4 next month, starting at just about the time Mr Smith goes to BBC headquarters. It is called *The Write Stuff* and involves the brilliant TV critic James Walton, the best-selling novelist Sebastian Faulks and various other people, not entirely excluding myself. I feel sure Mr Smith will commend it to the BBC top brass as being unusually worthwhile.

I feel sure he knows that a small cash contribution to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport will be found on top of the hand-dryer in the men's washroom at Wood Lane...

SOMETHING HAS gone out of my life since I got back from a family holiday in Wales. Something fine and wonderful has been left behind in those dinky hills.

A nameless rapture, which held my soul entranced for a week, has fled o'er the mountainside leaving me to dull mundanity in the metropolis. A week later, I haven't come to terms with saying goodbye.

What am I talking about? You know what I'm talking about. It is the deep joy of driving around, taking the piss out of the crafts centres.

You have come about 250 miles from London, and you don't quite remember why, but it was something to do with Elsewhere. Whatever your actual destination, the *raison d'être* of driving for six hours (and that includes the service station, the welcome acquaintance with that McDonald's pork McRib, so delicious it requires only a drop of Château Petrus '82 to transform it into a banquet, the economy packs of Jelly Babies and Fizzy Sharks demanded by the children, and, shortly afterwards, the plastic carrier bag full of three-year-old's sick hastily yet thoughtfully deposited on the hard shoulder just outside Swindon) is only to get Elsewhere, ie somewhere that's not London at Easter.

Once you're actually somewhere, in a converted barn in Pembrokeshire, the search is on to find a reason for being there. Which is why I spent a whole week motoring from one Craft Centre and Working Farm and Ancient Monument to another, to try to beguile the family in out-of-season coastal venues.



Tom Stoppard (left) 'burnished' the screenplay for *Lethal Weapon 3*, starring Mel Gibson (top right). Bottom right: John Thaw in *The Sweeney*, subject of a thesis on Social Realism. Below: Princess Margaret, who is 'in good spirits' after being scalded in a bath in Mustique



slow morning, drop into an Iron Age fort in which a strikingly beautiful woman, made up as a Celt, demonstrated how to work a 9th-century weaver's shuttle while a gaggle of noisy schoolchildren listened to folk tales in Welsh beside a fire, on which the bogus Celts were burning thyme to conceal the smell of paraffin firelighters.

I know that "authenticity" is everyone's favourite word now, but the search for the Real and True is taking us into odd territory. Holidays that were once about indulging yourself with food, drink and bracing walks are now about learning the art of glass-blowing in five minutes, examining traditional methods of fudge production and being offered seaside boulders shaped into endangered species at £150 each. I'm not sure about the logical outcome of all this. I kept expecting to

see a road sign promising "The Farming Experience - Pig's Throat Slitting, 4pm" but maybe it was a little early in the season.

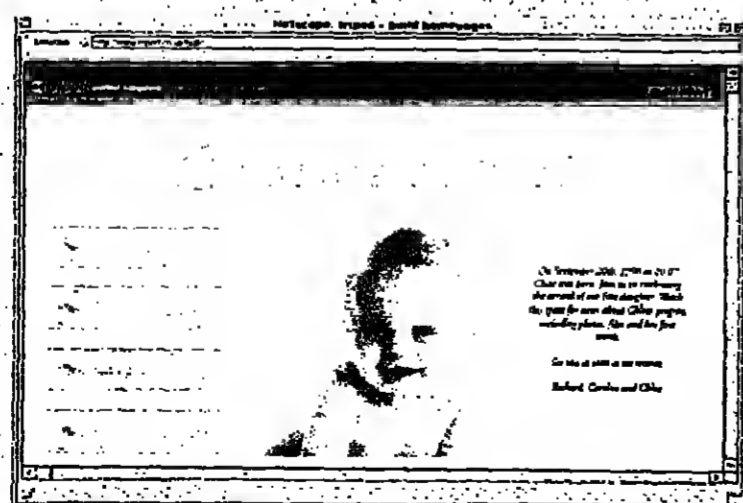
POOR PRINCESS Margaret. She has got to the stage in her life where the only reports you hear about her are of accidents, "scars", medical rumours and endless gossip about her love of fags and, especially, her intake of gin.

The newest hot news is that she slipped and fell into a scalding bath in Mustique a month ago, and suffered a nasty burn. She'll be fine. No permanent damage done. We offer Her Royal Highness our sympathies, etc. But was it entirely tactful of the Palace to have a spokesman report on her recuperative state with the words: "She is in good spirits"?

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THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

by Esau

No.3894 Monday 12 April

ACROSS

- 1 The next in line hit gold (9)
- 6 To doze during it is not acceptable (5)
- 9 Lists contemptible people (5)
- 10 Last three letters from minister put forward origin of modern religious belief (9)
- 11 Blunder in, fussing around husband in Wagnerian role (9)
- 12 See 4 down
- 14 Hanker after coat seen in the distance (7)
- 15 Drink deep, having gone back inside, and get quicker (5,2)
- 17 Embarrassed by papers, first to go for compensation (7)
- 19 Meat dish from America, coated with herb (7)
- 20 19 down Chirpy chap - 12's predecessor in absurd couple of disputes (4,7)
- 22 Handy way of disabling the pack, or a ruck (6,4)
- 25 Old flame recoils, sent packing, perhaps (9)
- 26 Cause astonishment in a prison (5)
- 27 Drawing of granny? (5)
- 28 Fed up with most of relevant European language (13,6)

DOWN

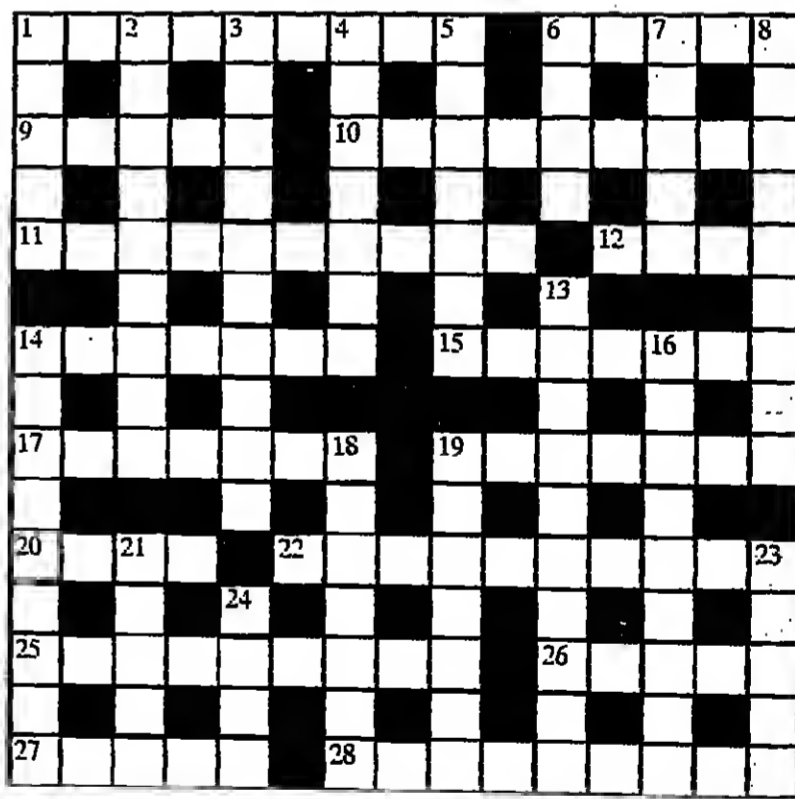
- 1 Prejudice shown up, adopting hard form of address (5)
- 2, 24 Standard target for rivals in fast-track promotion (9,4)
- 3 Where is one running for president? (10)
- 4, 12 across American chief in session with 20's 1 across, talking nonsense (7,4)
- 5 Screen duplicated note on

computer program (7)

- 6, 16 It helps to shed light on film by 24 given a bit of muscle (4,9)
- 7 Appropriate comment, once taking French leave? (5)
- 8 Intended to 15 apparent development of photographic technique? (4,5)
- 13 Take some time off to help the aged? (10)
- 14 Unusual bird seen in tree -

secret's out (9)

- 16 See 6
- 18 Shoot a line about a new breed of dog (7)
- 19 See 20 across
- 21 Most of them enjoy just deserts in growth area (5)
- 23 Do this, about to separate quill? (5)
- 24 See 2



FULL SPORT COVERAGE IN A 16-PAGE SECTION

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INDEPENDENT
Monday 12 April 1999

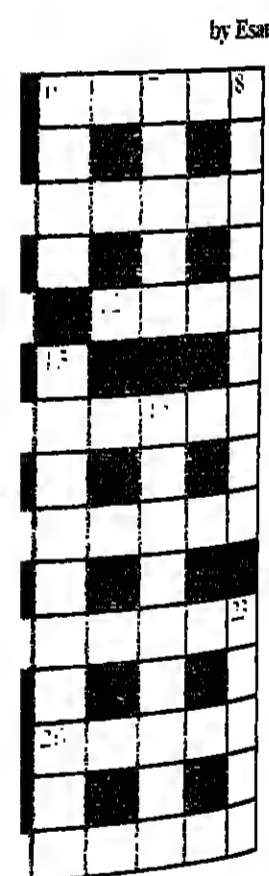
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31. starring Mel Gibson
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1 in a bath in Mustique

read sign promising 'The
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olum' but maybe it was a lit-
y in the season.

PRINCESS Margaret. She
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news is that she
and a scolding
last month ago, and
curiously. She'll be fine.
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on the 11th of the year
But she's certainly not
the future to have a
and on her
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in the sports?



I have a new breed of
dove
that's just deserve
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THE INDEPENDENT

2 Hakkinen proves the master for McLaren in Brazil



3 Olazabal delights the galleries at Augusta

4 Shearer's twin strike takes Toon Army to FA Cup final



12 Hero's welcome for National winner Bobbyjo



SPORT

12 April 1999

Five Nations' Championship: Scotland take the title thanks to Gibbs' try in dying seconds at Wembley

End of England's dream



Scott Gibbs dives over for Wales' injury-time try after sidestepping through the defence at Wembley yesterday. Stand-off Neil Jenkins converted to deny England the Five Nations' Grand Slam

THE WELSH have been enjoying the green, green grass of someone else's home for two long years now and yesterday afternoon, their English landlords marched into Wembley to reclaim the title deeds. They left empty-handed.

Scott Gibbs, the sort of squatter no police force would even contemplate trying to shift without three different court orders and a riot squad in support, broke the red rose defence - and its heart - clean asunder in the first minute of injury time to deny the overwhelming favourites a fourth Grand Slam in nine years and a first under the joint

BY CHRIS HEWETT at Wembley

Wales	32	England	31
Tries: Howarth, Gibbs		Tries: Luger, Hanley, Hill	
Conversions: Jenkins 2		Conversions: Wilkinson 2	
Penalties: Jenkins 6		Penalties: Wilkinson 4	
Half-time: 18-25		Attendance: 75,000	

stewardship of Clive Woodward and Lawrence Dallaglio.

As a finale, it was no more than a classic Anglo-Welsh contest deserved. Gibbs' try was a mind-boggling combination of the rapier and the broadsword as he busted and sidestepped English tacklers by the half-dozen, starting with Tim Rodber and ending with the debutant, Steve Hanley.

Wales were a point adrift even then, but there was not the remotest possibility of Neil Jenkins missing a do-or-die conversion from 20-odd metres. Old Jug-Ears would

have slotted it home had it been from his own 22, let alone England's.

Dallaglio, certainly England's stand-out performer and quite probably the man of this nerve-shredding occasion, was left to contemplate the Celtic double whammy to end them all: defeat by Wales and Scotland in the same afternoon. The triumph of Red Dragonhood presented the Five Nations' Championship to Scotland, whose equally vibrant victory in Paris on Saturday left them comfortably in the box seat in terms of points difference. It was certainly not a day for the smoked salmon set who had so blithely swapped Twickenham's West

car park for the wilds of North West London.

Perversely, Wales will never again play in the shadow of the twin towers: their own Millennium Stadium, reaching ever upwards on the Cardiff skyline, will soon be ready to receive them. Still, they will be tempted to rip up the Wembley greensward by its roots and cart it down the M4. Having been left for dead by a confident England during the first 40 minutes, they drew so much physical and spiritual sustenance from the half-time break that they proceeded to cover the finest playing surface in world rugby like a red shroud.

In their funeral mood, England will remember Andre Watson, the South African referee, as their hanging judge and undertaker. They can have few complaints about the torrent of penalty awards that helped the relentless Jenkins keep his countrymen at the races during a first half entirely dominated by England: some of the offences, like Neil Back's bone-headed refusal to give up the ball after the whistle, deserved whatever punishment the Pontypridd stand-off felt equipped to dish out. But was Tim Rodber's thunderous assault on Colin Charvis in injury time a fair hit or a calculated

misdeemeanor? That one will rage for ever and a day.

Charvis, running the ball out of the Welsh 22 in a desperate attempt to spark something that might wipe out his side's six-point deficit, came up against Rodber in his "this far and no further" guise. It looked a reasonable tackle, even though the Swansea flanker was left on the floor in a dozen pieces, but Watson saw it differently, yellow-carding the Englishman for a shoulder charge. And to think JPR Williams once won a Grand Slam for Wales with what

continued on page 10

Cricket: 3 ■ Football: 4-7 ■ Graham Taylor: 8 ■ The World's Shortest: 9 ■ Rugby Leagues: 10 ■ Racing: 12 ■ 13



14 year old long jumper lands in Florida.

The British Airways Olympic Futures Programme of multi-sport training camps in Britain and America is helping 175 young British athletes achieve their Olympic dreams.

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Brazilian Grand Prix: Schumacher demonstrates his determination to give world champion a difficult season
Hakkinen puts title defence in gear

MIKA HAKKINEN kick-started his quest for a consecutive world championship with a convincing victory for McLaren in Brazil yesterday. But the speed of Michael Schumacher and Ferrari, vanquished after a strong initial challenge, signalled that another gruelling title contest is in prospect.

Schumacher and his brother Ralf had walked to the grid together, laughing and joking, and this time the Ferrari driver avoided stalling his engine for the third consecutive race. That dubious honour fell to David Coulthard, who was left on the start line as Hakkinen in the sister McLaren sprinted into the lead. The Finn quickly established a cushion over Rubens Barrichello. Schumacher and Eddie Irvine, but just as McLaren got Coulthard back in the race they suffered more drama as Hakkinen's car momentarily slowed dramatically on the fourth lap, leaving Barrichello to take over the lead.

There was little doubt that the latter's gifted performance in qualifying third on the grid on Saturday had boosted the gate, as thousands more Brazilians flocked into the circuit where once they had come to cheer the late Ayrton Senna. Barrichello's close friend and mentor, "Let's just hope that the angels are kind to us in the race," he had said.

He led for 26 glorious laps, and for another 17 the angels would indeed smile until his experimental engine expired in a cloud of oil smoke.

As Coulthard, running second on the road but in an actual last place, chased initially after the Stewart-Ford, Hakkinen picked up the pace again to launch a challenge for Schumacher's second place, with Irvine ready to pick up pieces in a comfortable fourth.

But Barrichello looked perfectly secure as he held his countrymen in thrall. Tyre choice came under critical scrutiny before the start, which took place under a blue sky devoid of the rain that had once seemed a threat. McLaren, Michael Schumacher, Heinz-Harald Frentzen, and the Williams drivers had opted for Bridgestone's hard compounds in the interests of longevity, and

BY DAVID TREMAYNE
in São Paulo

in the high ambient temperature the choice of the softer rubber by the Stewarts, Benettons and Prost, Damon Hill and Eddie Irvine, was considered more of a gamble.

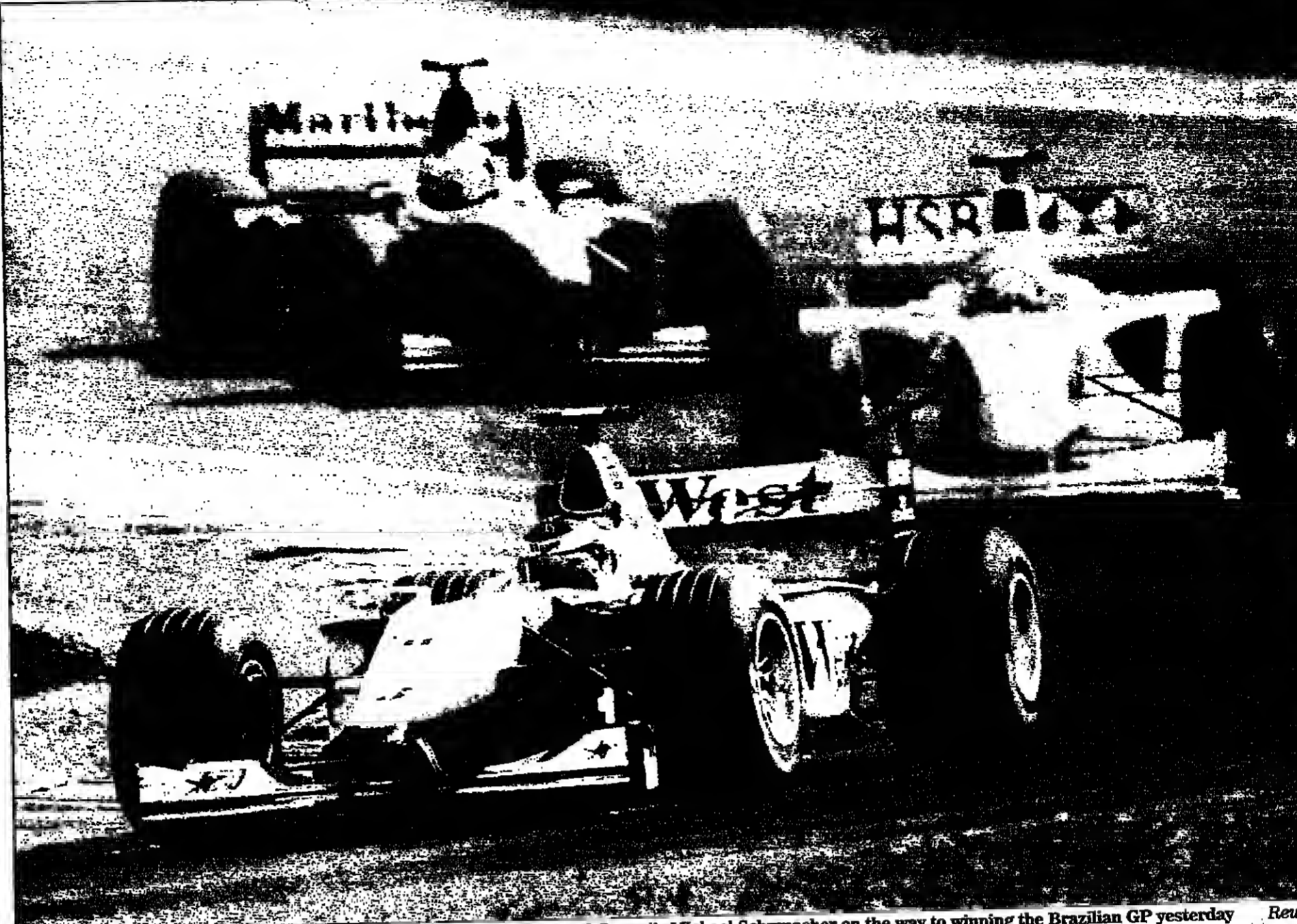
The leading Stewart seemed quite comfortable in the early laps. Even after Schumacher had cut away half a second from Barrichello's 3.4sec lead by the 10th lap, with Hakkinen looming in his mirrors, the Brazilian maintained his equilibrium and had regained the margin five laps later. There was no chance for Jackie or Paul Stewart to relax, however, as Johnny Herbert retired the sister car from seventh place at that point.

After a spin on the second lap, Jean Alesi enlivened the race with a scintillating sprint up the field for Sauber-Petronas to catch the battle for fifth place between Fisichella and Frentzen. He passed the German on the 19th lap, then outfoxed the Italian a lap later. Suddenly, he began to eat into Irvine's advantage in fourth place.

By one third distance, Barrichello was still three seconds clear, but Schumacher was containing Hakkinen's challenge as Jean Alesi stormed up to Irvine with a flurry of fastest laps. But then the Frenchman stalled during his first pit stop, undoing all his hard work, and three laps later his race ended with mechanical failure.

Barrichello's stop on the 27th lap was much smoother, but it dropped him to fourth place behind Irvine as Schumacher led Hakkinen through the backmarkers. On more than one occasion the Finn fared worse, as Alexander Wurz and Pedro de la Rosa delayed him.

It was now clear that Stewart's gameplan called for two pit stops. Ferrari's and McLaren's one, and the focus now switched firmly on to the battle between Formula One's two biggest stars. At this stage Hakkinen seemed content to hide his time, unable quite to summon enough to overtake, but able to keep right with Schumacher. More and more their fuel stop assumed critical



McLaren's Mika Hakkinen leads Rubens Barrichello of Stewart-Ford and Ferrari's Michael Schumacher on the way to winning the Brazilian GP yesterday. Reuters

DETAILS FROM INTERLAGOS

BRAZILIAN F1 GRAND PRIX (São Paulo)	WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS	REMAINING RACES
1 M Hakkinen (Fin) McLaren 1hr 36 min 3.785sec (ave speed 192.994kph) 2 M Schumacher (Ger) Ferrari +4.52sec 3 H-H Frentzen (Ger) Jordan +1 lap 4 R Schumacher (Ger) Williams +1 lap 5 E Irvine (GB) Ferrari +1 lap 6 O Panis (Fr) Prost +2 laps 7 A Wurz (Aut) Benetton +2 laps 8 T Takagi (Jpn) Arrows +3 laps 9 M Gede (Esp) Minardi +3 laps Others failed to finish	1 E Irvine (GB) 12 points; 2 M Hakkinen (Fin) 10; 3 H-H Frentzen (Ger) 10; 4 R Schumacher (Ger) 7; 5 M Schumacher (Ger) 6; 6 G Fisichella (It) 3; 7 R Barrichello (Br) 2; 8 P de la Rosa (Sp) 1; 9 O Panis (Fr) 1. CONSTRUCTORS' CHAMPIONSHIP: 1 Ferrari 18pts; 2 McLaren 10; 3 Jordan 10; 4 Williams 7; 5 Benetton 5; 6 Stewart 2; 7 Arrows 1; 8 Prost 1.	2 May: San Marino, Imola (4.9km, 62 laps); 16: Monaco, Monte Carlo (3.36km, 78 laps); 30: Spanish, Barcelona (4.72km, 65 laps); 13 June: Canadian, Montreal (4.42km, 69 laps); 27: French, Magny Cours (4.25km, 72 laps); 11 July: British, Silverstone (5.14km, 60 laps); 25: Austrian, Spielberg (4.31km, 71 laps); 1 Aug: German, Hockenheim (6.82km, 45 laps); 15: Hungarian, Budapest (3.97km, 77 laps); 22: Belgian, Spa-Francorchamps (6.96km, 44 laps); 12 Sept: Italian, Monza (5.77km, 53 laps); 26: European, Nürburgring (4.55km, 67 laps); 17 Oct: Malaysian, Kuala Lumpur (5.54km, 56 laps); 31: Japanese, Suzuka (5.80km, 53 laps).

Costa cuts loose to overwhelm Martin

ALBERT COSTA rallied to beat Todd Martin of the United States and win the Estoril Open in Oeiras, Portugal, yesterday. The fourth-seeded Spaniard finally broke loose in the third set to win 7-6, 2-6, 6-3.

"It was a very difficult match for me," said the 23-year-old, who made it to the Estoril final in 1995 but lost to Austria's Thomas Muster.

Martin, second-seeded in Portugal and ranked No 8 in the world, fresh from helping the United States beat Britain in the Davis Cup, missed an opportunity to take his second title this year, after a victory at the Sydney International event in January.

In the women's final in Oeiras, Slovenia's Katarina Srebotnik beat Hungary's Rita Kuti Kis in just over an hour, 6-3, 6-1.

In Madras yesterday, Byron Black of Zimbabwe won the Gold Flake Open, beating the German Rainer Schüttler, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3.

Andre Agassi put his per-

TENNIS

BY DERRICK WHYTE

sonal problems behind him and stayed on course for his first ATP title this year with a 6-3, 6-0 win over Germany's Hendrik Dreekmann in the semi-finals of the Salem Open in Hong Kong on Saturday. Yesterday's final against Boris Becker, though, was twice washed out and will be played today.

After his win over Dreekmann, Agassi confirmed that he and Brooke Shields have filed for divorce.

The third-seeded Agassi, who entered as a wild card, denied going to Asia to get away from the pressures of a high-profile divorce. The American, who is ranked No 12 in the world, said he simply needed to play more tennis.

Agassi was 6-7, 6-4, 2-0 ahead in yesterday's final. Becker recovered from 5-3 down to win the first set 7-4 on a tie-break after Agassi's game had suddenly deserted him. But the

American bounced back in the second set, breaking a determined Becker in the fifth game before levelling the match.

The German, heading for retirement later this year, dropped his serve in the first game of the deciding set.

Anna Kournikova was yet again defeated going for her first singles title, the Russian teenager falling to the unseeded Romanian, Ruxandra Dragomir, in the semi-finals of the Bausch & Lomb Championships in Florida on Saturday.

Dragomir halted the ninth-seeded Kournikova's impressive run on the Amelia Island clay registering a 6-3, 7-5 victory, and was due to play Monica Seles in the final last night.

Kournikova, the tour's highest profile player without a title to her name, looked on her way to riding herself of that distinction. After reaching the Hilton Head final last week - where she lost to Martina Hingis - Kournikova continued playing some of the best tennis of her career in Florida, scoring decisive upsets over the

top seed Lindsay Davenport and Patty Schnyder. But on Saturday, Dragomir rallied from down a break in each set.

Dragomir, 26, made 14 unforced errors compared with 35 for Kournikova. She recovered from 3-1 down in the second set, which featured five consecutive service breaks before the Romanian closed out the match by holding serve to love.

"I probably tried to finish points too quick because I didn't want to do a lot of running," said Kournikova, who pulled out of the doubles with a minor hip injury. "I don't want to use that as an excuse because she played well."

While Kournikova was enjoying the spotlight last week, Seles was quietly making her way to the final, dropping only nine games in her four wins. Her semi-final victory over Conchita Martinez took 44 minutes and equalled the worst defeat of the Spaniard's career, to Seles at the 1989 Virginia Slims Championships.

Tafi rides through hell to heaven

ANDREA TAFI fulfilled a lifetime's dream yesterday when he won the Paris-Roubaix Classic after twice finishing on the podium in previous years.

The Italian national champion, who was second last year behind his team-mate Franco Ballerini and third in 1996 behind another team-mate, Belgian Johan Museeuw, this time took his own chance by breaking away 25 miles from the finish.

His victory in the 171-mile World Cup race, known as the "Hell of the North" and run yesterday in windy but dry conditions, was the fourth by a Mapei rider in five years.

It was also the third time Mapei had swept the podium places as Tafi's Belgian team-mates, Tom Steels and Wil-

CYCLING

fried Peeters, were second and third. The victory was all the sweeter for the 33-year-old from Florence because on two previous occasions he had been forced to sacrifice his chances to another rider. In 1996, he crossed the line in tears after the Mapei director, Patrick Lefevere, decided he should allow Museeuw to win. Last year, he worked hard to help Ballerini win his second victory.

This year, circumstances were on his side. Ballerini left to join Lampre at the end of last season and he was too isolated on Sunday to stand a chance.

Museeuw had a terrible crash in the gruelling Wallers-Armeberg "trench" last year and he decided not to take any risks this season and work for Tafi.

"This morning Lefevere told me it was my turn and the team did a great job for me," the Italian said. "Once again, Mapei showed we were a great team."

It was at the end of the infamous trench - a long cobbled climb lined by deep ruts in the middle of a forest - that Tafi made his move. He first led the chase behind a group of early breakaways led by Steels, the winner of Ghent-Wevelgem last year, and, despite a puncture with just over 30 miles left, shook off his rivals one by one.

Andreï Tchmil, the Milan-San Remo winner who won the "Hell" in 1994, was among the first favourites to lose

ground. Ballerini quickly followed. And, with 25 miles left, two of the most promising riders in the bunch, Belgium's Franck Vandendriessche and the American champion George Hincapie, were still in contention in a small group led by Tafi.

Steels, Peeters, and two Paris-Roubaix specialists, the Dutchman Leo Van Bon and the Belgian Jo Planckaert, were also in the group. But when Tafi struck the final blow at another classic spot of the race, le Carrefour de l'Arbre, none of his rivals could reply.

Tafi, a former winner of the Tour of Lombardy, remained on his own for the last hour of the race and he was never threatened on the run to the finish.

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سكوا من الامم

FA Cup: Newcastle reach Wembley for a second successive year as Tottenham made to pay the penalty in extra time

Shearer strikes to deny Spurs

BY PHIL SHAW at Old Trafford



Newcastle United 2
Shearer pen 109, 118
Tottenham Hotspur 0
After extra-time
Attendance: 53,609



HISTORY REPEATED in the most dramatic fashion as Newcastle, having survived one valid penalty appeal and benefited from another, reached the FA Cup final for the second season running after proving stronger than Tottenham during extra-time in yesterday's semi-final at Old Trafford.

Alan Shearer, a peripheral figure until the appearance of Duncan Ferguson alongside him late in normal time, put Ruud Gullit's side ahead from the spot in the 109th minute. The goal came in front of the Stretford End - the spot where he had struck against Sheffield United to send Newcastle to Wembley 12 months earlier - and the England captain added a full-blooded second for good measure with 90 seconds remaining.

The outcome was hard on Spurs, who had been the more positive team during the opening 90 minutes. Striving to reach a second domestic final in George Graham's first season at White Hart Lane, they might well have returned to the scene of their Worthington Cup triumph if either the referee, Paul Durkin, or his linesman had spotted the hand which

Nikos Dabizas raised to turn away a free-kick by Andy Sinton early in the second half.

However, when Sol Campbell emulated Dabizas, Mr Durkin's view was clearly unimpaired. Shearer has now scored 11 goals in 12 games against Spurs, reviving Geordie dreams of significant silverware after three barren decades. They last won the FA Cup some 44 years ago, when the black and white stripes were sported by men with unmistakably British names like Scouler and Simpson, Stokoe and Hannah. They will return for the last pre-Millennium final - their 12th in all - bristling with exotic nationalities.

Last year, under Kenny Dalglish's dour stewardship, Newcastle failed to perform against Arsenal at Wembley. This time, with Ferguson proving a talismanic figure after a four-month absence which included surgery on a hernia problem, they will surely converge on the Twin Towers with greater confidence and optimism, with Gullit seeking to become the first foreign coach to lift the famous old pot on two occasions, having first done the trick with Chelsea.

Newcastle's triumph was all the sweeter for the fact that



Alan Shearer celebrates sending Newcastle to Wembley as the Tottenham players show their dejection in the FA Cup semi-final at Old Trafford yesterday

David Ginola, off-loaded to north London by Dalglish, failed to produce the form that has made him a contender for the Footballer of the Year award. Ginola was as ineffectual as he was against Leicester at Wembley last month and was eventually substituted.

Yet for much of the afternoon, Spurs were the more adventurous of the two teams. The stereotypes insist that Graham is obsessed with keeping clean sheets and Gullit an advocate of "sexy football", but it was Spurs who made the running before extra-time.

They might well have scored inside the first 90 seconds.

Darren Anderson let fly from fully 35 yards out on the right, forcing goalkeeper Shay Given to tip the ball over at full stretch. Chris Armstrong came close to converting the ensuing corner, and Campbell also missed from close range after another flag-kick created confusion in the Newcastle six-yard area.

Newcastle's unease may have been the result of the hype about the havoc Ginola might wreak. Gullit had admitted the problem by restoring Rob Lee for only his fourth start since Boxing Day, and deputising the former captain to double up with Andrew Griffin

against the Frenchman. Griffin, 20, played rugby league in his native Wigan as a schoolboy, but resisted the temptation to tackle his mercurial opponent in the manner acceptable to the 13-man code.

Ginola may have hoped for Mauricio Taricco to occupy one of his markers with some supportive surges. The Argentinean seldom ventured forward, but for all Ginola's second-half vanishing act Spurs had two penalty appeals in the space of eight minutes around the hour mark.

There was no doubting the legitimacy of the first as Dabizas clearly and deliber-

ately handled. The second, which followed a stern challenge by Nolberto Solano on Steven Carr, was rightly turned down, yet Spurs had reason to feel they were on the verge of a breakthrough.

Ferguson's appearance disabused them of such notions. The towering Scot was playing only his sixth game of an injury-ravaged sojourn on Tyneside, and his initial contribution betrayed a certain rustiness.

Extra-time was a different matter altogether. With Ferguson beginning to expose Campbell's mortality and Luke Young's lack of height, and Shearer at last stirring, New-

castle began to pepper Spurs' goal with shots. Ian Walker suddenly had to deny Ferguson (spectacularly), Griffin (twice) and Shearer.

Three minutes into the second period, a one-two played between Ferguson and Gary Speed saw Campbell inexplicably copy Dabizas's indiscretion. Shearer waited for the arguments to subside before drilling his penalty wide to the left of Walker. With time running out on Spurs, Shearer took Silvio Maric's lay-off and dispatched a swerving 20-yard shot high into Walker's net.

Although Newcastle and their legions of followers were

exultant, it was difficult to argue with Graham's parting shot. "What was the referee watching?" the Spurs manager asked of Dabizas' escape. "If we'd scored then, we'd have won - trust me."

Goals: Shearer (109, pen) 1-0; Shearer (118) 2-0.
Newcastle United (4-4-2): Griffin, Howey (Hughes, 35), Dabizas, Carr, Lee, Hanson, Speed, Solano (Ferguson, 76), Ketsubala (Maric, 106), Shearer. **Substitutes not used:** Saha, Harper (90).
Tottenham Hotspur (4-4-2): Walker, Carr, Young, Campbell, Taricco; Anderson (Sinton, 51), Nelson, 83, Sherwood, Martin, Ginola (Hansen, 70), Ferdinand, Armstrong. **Substitutes not used:** King, Bastien (90).
Referee: P. Durkin (Portland, Dorset). **Bookings:** Newcastle: Griffin, Maric, Tottenham: Sinton, Taricco, Young, Campbell.
Man of the match: Griffin.
Attendance: 53,609.

Rangers ensure Old Firm finale

THE HISTORY and tradition of Scottish football will attend the Tennents Scottish Cup final at the rebuilt Hampden Park next month as Celtic and Rangers contest the first Old Firm final for a decade.

The clash of Glasgow's bitter rivals will justify the *raison d'être* of the national stadium, a truly neutral venue for Scotland's showcase matches.

Those who criticise the state of the game north of the border were given adequate ammunition over the course of two one-sided semi-finals, which saw Celtic and Rangers progress against token resistance.

St Johnstone employed the successful tactics of the previous week when they beat Rangers 3-1 in the League but they were tactics designed to frustrate, with nine players channelled behind the ball. That game plan was torn up within

BY DAVID MCKINNEY

St Johnstone 0
Rangers 4

the first 15 minutes as Rangers found the inspiration missing in the previous game. Neil McCann broke quickly out of his own half and slid a through-ball to Rod Wallace. The Englishman steadied himself before shooting low past Alan Main.

The goal forced a change of heart from Sandy Clark. The St Johnstone manager replaced John Paul McBride with the pacier Miguel Simão, but Rangers continued to make the running, probing the Saints' defence for weaknesses. Andrei Kanchelskis cut inside his man and forced a good save from Main at his near post, but when the second goal came it resulted from a more carefully rehearsed move. Jörg Albertz

shaped to take a free-kick then exchanged passes with Giovanni Van Bronckhorst, allowing the Dutchman space to fire in a shot that was deflected into the bottom corner of the net.

Albertz came close to a third goal before half-time. The German, renowned for his powerful shot, put his full weight behind a blistering effort that thundered back off the crossbar from all of 35 yards.

Not content, Rangers continued to search for more goals in the second half. Stéphane Guivarch, the French striker, again failed to impress and was replaced by Jonathan Johansson. The Finn was played clear almost immediately but Main stayed up well to the challenge. The goalkeeper then saved well from McCann, but from the resultant corner the ball fell to Johansson, who stroked home Rangers' third goal.



Kanchelskis: Went close

For the first time in the game, St Johnstone created chances, with Simão clipping over the bar and Gary Bovan seeing his shot deflected wide. However, it was not long before Rangers added a fourth. McCann collecting a pass on the edge of the area and curling his shot past the goalkeeper.

St Johnstone (4-5-1): Alan, Watt, Doss, Knapman, Bogan, Chalmers, Kane, Doss, Griffin, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200.
Rangers (4-4-2): Main, Pott, Albertz, Guivarch, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200.
Man of the match: Albertz.
Attendance: 20,654.

Blinker has Celtic vision

IN A weekend of outstanding sporting promise, few events over the last couple of days have been as one-sided and clear cut as Celtic's progress to the Tennent's Scottish Cup final. Few will have been less entertaining.

Dr Jozef Venglos in his first season in charge has allowed the talent of the Scottish champions to flourish in a way that was rarely evident under the stricter regime of Wim Jansen. When those players add bite to their performance, as they did at Ibrox, they are irresistible.

This whole encounter was wrapped up in 45 minutes and, if Celtic as a whole were irresistible, Regi Blinker was the epitome of their best qualities. The former Sheffield Wednesday player, who has been criticised by the supporters for the lack of a telling contribution, produced his best 90 minutes in a Celtic jersey. He showed skill and vision on the ball and a capacity to tackle back when off it and was at the heart of every

BY DAVID MCKINNEY

Celtic 2
Dundee United 0

good Celtic move especially in the first half. Allowed the freedom to come inside from his former beat on the wing, Blinker has flourished at the right time as the considerable play-making skills of Lubomir Moravcik are confined to the physio's couch.

Blinker-led Celtic channelled their resources towards the United goal with a degree of menace, creating chances for Craig Burley, Paul Lambert and Mark Viduka before Blinker struck the first goal. He latched on to a loose ball at a corner and scored with a firmly hit, angled drive.

Within seconds, Viduka had a goal disallowed for offside, but the Australian added the second five minutes before the break. Played in behind the United defence, his final shot deflected from a defender over the diving Sieb Dykstra.

By then the tie was over as Celtic's sprightly performance was in direct contrast to a dull and defensive approach by United that smacked of pessimism, despite the fact that they have made life difficult for Celtic in the league.

Their approach was all the more abysmal given that this was a one-off cup tie that carried the promise of an historic appearance in the first final to be played at the rebuilt Hampden Park.

"I couldn't believe how my team couldn't pass the ball to each other in the first half," said Paul Sturrock, their manager. "We made chances in the second half which makes me ask why it wasn't there in the first."

Many felt this was a real chance for United as Celtic have a makeshift side in the absence of Vidar Riseth and Johan Mjallby from the heart of their defence.

However the reorganised Celtic defence was rarely troubled in their absence, with only Jason De Vos hitting the post

and Billy Dodds coming close with a header at a corner deflected over.

Burley later admitted he and his team-mates were motivated by the thought of a return to the national stadium.

"It will be a big, big final for us back at Hampden and I feel it is nice to get away from the club grounds and to a change of scenery," he said. "It is like going to Wembley for us, and it is good for the players to have a big day out."

Venglos believes they have the quality to compete with any club at the moment. He said: "There are a number of important matches to play before the final. But I think we are now able to compete with anybody and we shall try to do that."

Goals: Blinker (29) 1-0, Viduka (40) 2-0.
Celtic (3-5-2): Grant, Amon, Boyd, Main (McGheest, 53), McNamara, Burley, Lambert, Blinker, McNulty, Larsson, Viduka (Donnelly, 71). **Substitutes not used:** Kerr.
Dundee United (4-2-3-1): Dykstra, Shodrak, De Vos, Johnson, Malpas, Murray, Easton, Miller, Dodds, Olorunsin, Martin (Thompson, 69). **Substitutes not used:** Paterson, Duff.
Referee: W. Young (Clarkston). **Bookings:** Dundee United: Dodds, Johnson, Malpas. **Man of the match:** Blinker.

Toshack's men given a Real beating

JOHN TOSHACK, the Real Madrid coach, all but conceded defeat in the Spanish title race yesterday following his side's dismal 5-1 defeat to Celta Vigo.

Celta's stroll past the Madrid giants, which featured a hat-trick from the veteran Bulgarian striker Lubo Penev, moved the Galician side up to second place, seven points behind the leaders Barcelona.

Valencia slipped to third, a further point back, after they were surprisingly held to a 1-1 draw at home to Extremadura. Real Mallorca went fourth with a 1-0 win at home to Valladolid, Dani hitting the winner, but Deportivo La Coruña lost further ground as they were beaten 2-1 at Alaves.

Real Madrid are now back in fifth place, trailing their arch-rivals Barcelona by 10 points, and Toshack admitted their primary objective was no longer first place. "Now we have to take one game at a time and basically see what hap-

BY KEVIN FLYAN

pens," a dejected Toshack told reporters after the match. "That's our only objective."

Real, who went into the game with three key defenders suspended, were always likely to struggle against Celta's free-scoring attack. But the manner of their capitulation was extraordinary as the home side raced into a 3-0 lead within 15 minutes. Penev was left unmarked to nod in the first at the near post on eight minutes. Mazinho was left similarly clear three minutes later as he swept in the second and Penev was on hand again on the quarter-hour as he received the ball with his back to goal and used his strength to turn and lash home.

Toshack reacted by bringing on Fernando Morientes for the midfielder Guti and the switch bore immediate fruit as the young striker burst through on the left to head a shot past Richard Dutruel and in off the far post. But Celta re-establish-

ed their three-goal advantage within a minute as an attempted clearance from Christian Karembeu dropped at Alexander Mostovoi's feet inside the area. The Russian finished nervelessly.

The pace understandably slackened after the break but Celta were still able to create a host of scoring chances, only one of which was taken. Penev completing his hat-trick with a tap-in after German goalkeeper Bodo Illgner had palmed away a long-range free-kick.

Toshack was left bemused by his side's no-show in defence and refused to use the absence of Fernando Hierro, Roberto Carlos and Ivan Campo as an excuse. "I have no defence for that display," the Welshman admitted. "There's nothing positive to say. We all failed."

Barcelona secured a scrappy 3-2 victory over nine-man Tenerife on Saturday. The champions were made to work hard by their relegation-threatened hosts, who fought back

gamely from 2-0 and 3-1 down despite having two players sent off for dissent in a bad-tempered second half.

Tenerife, outclassed in a first half that ended 3-1, gave everything in the second as they recovered to 3-2 with a great goal from Roy Makaay after 56 minutes. But the sending-off of their first-half scorer Antonio Pinilla midway through the second half, followed by a second red for Alexis Suarez in injury time, ended their hopes.

Barcelona, who netted through Philip Cocu, Rivaldo and Albert Celades, have won their last five league matches. Milan recovered from a goal down to defeat Parma 2-1 at San Siro yesterday and put the pressure on the Italian Serie A leaders Lazio.

Maurizio Ganz scored Milan's winner after the veteran defender Paolo Maldini had cancelled out Abel Balbo's 38th-minute opener. The victory took Milan up to second place behind Lazio, one point ahead of

Florentina, who were held 2-2 at home by Bari.

Juventus needed an 81st-minute equaliser from Angelo Di Livio to salvage a 2-2 home draw with Bologna, after surrendering an early lead and squandering a penalty. Internazionale returned to Salernitana for the first time in 50 years and probably wished they had never made the trip, losing 2-0 to the second-from-bottom side and having Ivan Zamorano sent off in the last minute for dissent.

Fifth-placed Udinese maintained their hopes of an automatic place in next season's European Cup with a 2-1 victory at Cagliari, courtesy of goals from the Dane, Martin Jorgensen, and the Belgian, Johan Walem.

"It's best to keep your feet on the ground in football," said Milan's coach Alberto Zaccheroni after a victory which put Lazio in his side's sights for the first time this year.

Results, page 15

Progress for Ireland

THE REPUBLIC of Ireland booked their place in the second round of the World Youth Championship with a 4-0 victory against Australia in Ibadan, Nigeria, on Saturday.

The Millwall striker Richard Sadler opened the scoring in the 20th minute, with the Blackburn winger Damien Duff, the Huddersfield midfielder Tom Heary and Garry Crossley completing the scoring in the second half.

Six points was enough to put the Irish, who lost their opening game 1-0 to Mexico but then beat Saudi Arabia 2-0, through to the second round of the three-week tournament after qualifying from Group C.

Yesterday, Uruguay and Portugal reached the second round with a goalless draw. In one of the drabest games of the tournament, both sides were content with a draw knowing they would qualify.

The three-time champions Brazil beat Zambia 5-1 to ease into the second round. Brazil,

who finished Group F with seven points, came back from 1-0 down with goals by Ronaldo, Fabio Aurelio, Fernando Baiano, Mancini and Rodrigo Gral.

Zambia, making their first appearance in the tournament, opened the scoring in the ninth minute with captain Andrew Sinkala's goal. But Brazil bounced back, Ronaldo scoring with a header in the 30th minute. Aurelio scored one of the best goals so far in the tournament in the 45th minute, a free-kick from 22 yards into top corner.

Baiano chipped in the third over Mumba's head from 10 yards out in the 66th, and Mancini broke into the area from the right and scored the fourth in the 71st minute.

Rodrigo Gral scored the fifth for the South Americans from a penalty five minutes from the end after Fernando Baiano was pulled down in the area by Mumba, who was sent off. Tunisia became the first

team to qualify for the last 16 of the African Nations' Cup finals on Saturday, beating Uganda 2-0.

Goals by Hassan Gabali in the 18th minute and Faouzi Rouissi in the 41st lifted Tunisia in Kampala, sending the country to its fourth straight appearance. The victory was Tunisia's fourth in as many qualifying games, giving them 12 points and moving them eight ahead of both Algeria and Liberia in Group Seven.

Four angry fans filed suits yesterday against a leading Egyptian team after the players walked off the pitch.

The match between Egypt's two top teams, El-Zamalek and El-Ahly, lasted only four minutes on Friday night. When the referee ordered an El-Zamalek player to leave the pitch because of a foul, the rest of the team walked off in protest.

The withdrawal gave the victory to El-Ahly, while the Egyptian Federation fined El-Zamalek 150,000 Egyptian pounds (£27,000).

FA Cup semi-final: United rue disallowed goal as Arsenal have a player sent off for the 10th occasion this season

Battle of giants ends in deadlock

BY GLENN MOORE at Villa Park

Arsenal	0
Manchester United	0
After extra time	
Attendance: 39,217	

VILLA PARK has been a moribund place in recent weeks as the home club have slid down the Premiership table but, yesterday, it shook to the collision of giants. Manchester United and Arsenal, the modern game's behemoths, battled each other to a standstill during two hours of sound and fury.

Though long on drama it was short on goals and the pair must meet again, at the same venue on Wednesday night, for the right to play Newcastle at Wembley in the FA Cup final on 22 May. The draw made it a good afternoon for Chelsea, who could go top while their rivals are duelling on Wednesday night if they repeat yesterday's victory at Wimbledon at Middlesbrough.

It was a less enjoyable afternoon for Nelson Vivas, Arsenal's Argentinian defender, and the officials. David Elleray, the referee, had a generally impressive afternoon with his dismissal of Vivas, for elbowing Nicky Butt early in extra-time, thoroughly justified. But, shortly before the interval, he allowed his assistant to persuade him to chalk off a valid United goal which might well have settled the match.

With Ryan Giggs on the left wing, and apparently about to



Manchester United's Dwight Yorke (left) and Arsenal's Martin Keown fight for the ball in yesterday's goalless FA Cup semi-final at Villa Park

Allsport

cross, Dwight Yorke strayed into an offside position in the box. The assistant put his flag up only to take it down when Giggs, instead, slipped the ball past Lee Dixon and headed for the byline. By the time he crossed Yorke was outside but the flag went back up as the Tobagan flicked on the cross for Roy Keane to drill into the roof of the net.

Elleray disallowed the goal and stuck by his decision after consulting the linesman. This was an error, though Yorke had briefly strayed into an offside position but was in no way interfering with play as Giggs was still in possession.

"It was ridiculous, quite amazing," said Alex Ferguson, the United manager.

This, unsurprisingly, was not the view of Arsène Wenger, Arsenal's manager, who said: "It was offside, it was indicated by the linesman early on. I don't know how anyone could complain."

Wenger, as usual, did not see the dismissal of Vivas, the 22nd Arsenal player to be sent off under his command and the 10th this season. He did concede, however: "If he has elbowing the guy he deserved to be sent off and it is stupid."

Wenger thought, with some justification, that Vivas's first booking, for fouling Beckham after five minutes, was harsh

Two players, Vivas and Neville, were booked in the first five minutes but then the game settled. Arsenal, in their 20th FA Cup semi-final, began brightly with Peter Schmeichel tipping an Adams header over and saving well from Dennis Bergkamp. United, playing their 22nd semi, had gone close when Ryan Giggs shot over after nine minutes. After Keane's disallowed goal they went close again with Butt passing up one chance and Yorke snuffing another.

It was another poor game from Yorke, back on his old

ground, but Cole was no better failing to reach a Giggs cross soon after the break then shooting weakly when the Welshman put him through on the hour.

With a full house creating a vibrant atmosphere the game remained end-to-end and Keane, David Beckham and Nicolas Anelka all wasted opportunities to settle the tie before extra-time. United had been marginally the better team, especially in midfield. Wenger had played Parlour on the right in an attempt to utilise his attacking prowess but, in the absence of the suspended

Emmanuel Petit, who will be back on Wednesday, Butt and Keane over-powered the bolders in the centre.

United increased their dominance after Vivas was dismissed but Arsenal, paradoxically, created the better chances with Bergkamp denied first by Schmeichel then by Gary Neville's tackle. The best opportunity fell to Frederick Ljungberg but, released by Bergkamp with three minutes left, he could not beat Schmeichel.

"We showed our usual resilience and organisation,"

Both sides need to polish shooting boots

IF COMPARISON tends to come down romantically in favour of the great Manchester United team that included such notable virtuosos of the game as George Best, Denis Law and Bobby Charlton, things have been not always as older supporters like to imagine.

Seeing another old United hero from that era, Pat Crerand, at Villa Park yesterday took me back 36 years to April 1963, when they reached the FA Cup final by defeating Southampton 1-0 at the same stadium.

Played on a barren, uneven surface and settled by a Law toe-poke, it was a poor match in keeping with the struggle United were then having to

team could fulfil their attacking potential.

In United's case this was due to turning up without what old-time football correspondents used to call "shooting boots".

No matter how far the game advances tactically, the fundamentals will always apply—especially when it comes to taking clear-cut chances.

The best of them fell to United but both Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke (playing on the ground when he first came to prominence), prolific scorers this season, were guilty of weak finishing that made David Seaman's job easy every time his goal was seriously threatened.

Unquestionably, United

should have won. They had a clear edge in midfield, where Roy Keane was outstanding, the better attacking ideas, and in Jaap Stam the best player on the field.

Errors made when turning out for the Netherlands in last summer's World Cup final, and the discomfort the team's gambling policy caused him, suggested to some observers that Stam was not worth the many millions that United had paid for him.

In fact, Stam has proved to be a great acquisition, a contender for Footballer of the Year, and his work yesterday was again exemplary.

By contrast Stam's compatriots in the Arsenal team, Dennis Bergkamp and Marc

Overmars, made only peripheral contributions.

Shaken up by a tackle for which Gary Neville was booked after only two minutes, Overmars never got into his stride and eventually gave way to Fredrik Ljungberg.

If United end up on the wrong end of things after Wednesday's replay, they will doubtless look back angrily on the controversial offside decision that ruled out Keane's scoring effort in the first half.

It is probable that the linesman who ruled against Yorke anticipated a centre from Ryan Giggs when instead the Welshman pushed the ball beyond Arsenal's right flank and spurred after it to lay on the opportunity that Keane

drove into the roof of Arsenal's net.

Since it seemed by then that one goal would settle it, they had the measure of Arsenal's attackers, United's frustration was understandable.

Arsenal's best moments came when they were able to free Nicolas Anelka and Bergkamp before United could push up and clamp down on them, but Stam was equal to the threat of Anelka's pace and in any case the final pass was usually poor.

It was thought before the game that the effect of United's efforts, physical and psychological, in the European Cup against Juventus last week would work against

Fowler may not appeal

BY KIERAN DALEY

ROBBIE FOWLER'S legal advisers are considering dropping plans to appeal against the Liverpool striker's six-match ban and record £32,000 fine.

Fowler was suspended for two games following his fracas with his England team-mate, Chelsea's Graeme Le Saux. He received a further four-match ban for mimicking snuffing cocaine as he celebrated a goal against Everton.

Fowler's legal representative, Kevin Dooley, called the punishment "an unjustified and disproportionate sentence," though yesterday he hinted that plans for an appeal may be dropped to prevent the ban spilling over into next season. Without an appeal he could serve out most if not all of his ban this season in relatively meaningless fixtures, with Liverpool's hopes of securing a UEFA Cup place all but over.

Johnson fails to add the finishing touch

DELIA SMITH, a Norwich director, appeared in a list of the nation's richest people yesterday — and the nation's favourite chef was on hand to watch her team frustrate Ipswich's own attempts to gain a firm grip on second place in the First Division and increase their chances of joining the fat cats in the Premiership next season.

Through a combination of Ipswich's own wayward finishing, particularly from David Johnson, and inspired goalkeeping from Norwich's 19-year-old debutant Robert Green, this East Anglian derby never sparked into life and was proof, if any were needed, that derbies usually result in the form book being torn up and thrown away.

Norwich, whose season is effectively dead after a run of only two wins in their last 18 games, nevertheless dealt comfortably with their rivals, who have suffered only one defeat in their last 13 games. If anything, Bruce Rioch's Norwich had earned the tag of favourites to win this particular game, hav-

BY CONRAD LEACH

Norwich City 0
Ipswich Town 0

ing won at Ipswich earlier this season and won this corresponding fixture in each of the past five years.

However, this draw was enough to put the visitors in the second automatic promotion place, one point ahead of Bradford City, and, as their manager George Burley said: "We're in second place on merit and at times we looked like the home team. Derby games are always fiercely contested."

Bearing in mind there is no love lost between these two teams, the slogan "Shake Hands on Derby Day" was adopted to pre-empt any unsavoury violence on or off the pitch. But such fears were never truly realised, with any flare-ups few and far between.

Such incidents which did crop up usually involved Johnson, both the good and bad. With six minutes in the first half

remaining, Fabian Wilnis slipped a pass through the Norwich defence but Johnson, with time and space, spurned his side's first and best chance of the game, thrashing his shot over Green's crossbar from eight yards. Johnson, on hostile ground anyway, had blotted his copybook earlier by charging Green and then diving on the edge of the area in a vain attempt to win a penalty.

That was not all for the lively striker, as seven minutes into the second half he pushed Norwich's Matt Jackson into Green as they chased a ball, leading to Jackson suffering a bloodied nose and being replaced, while Johnson escaped censure.

Norwich were not without their own chances, and with 34 minutes gone Wilnis rescued Ipswich with a sliding tackle as Philip Mulryne, brought in from Manchester United last month, shaped to shoot from close range. But Rioch's tactics, designed to stifle Ipswich in midfield, duly deprived his strikers of sufficient supply.



Johnson: Wasted chances

Sunderland closer to land of fulfilment

PETER REID is preparing for a party after his Sunderland side moved to within one win of the Premiership.

The runaway First Division leaders stretched their unbeaten League run to 12 matches with a 2-0 win over Huddersfield Town, thanks to first-half goals from Niall Quinn and Allan Johnston at the Stadium of Light. Sunderland now head to Bury tomorrow knowing that victory will seal a top-two finish and a delighted Reid said: "Some of the stuff we played was outstanding. This was similar to our last home game when we started brightly and it was only a matter of time before we went in front."

There was no sign of any nerves from my players. They are just going out and producing performances like that.

The race for the second automatic promotion spot behind Bradford City beat Portsmouth 2-1, with their leading scorer Lee Mills and Lee Sharpe on target. City's manager, Paul

BY TOMMY STANFORTH

Jewell, is worried, though, that the pressure is getting to his players.

Jewell admitted: "I sense the players are jittery. They were jittery against Grimsby last Saturday and we were a bit edgy again here. But you cannot ask for more than three victories in eight days with eight goals for and only one against."

Birmingham City are fourth after a goal from Gary Rowett kept their play-off push on track with a 1-0 win at Swindon Town. Bolton are on the verge of throwing away a play-off place, though, after they lost 2-0 at Watford, who are just one point behind Colin Todd's men.

Todd, whose team have won only once in the last 10 matches, admitted: "It's down to character now and it's down to our experienced professionals to show that character can help us through. It's very disappointing to lose by two goals to Watford, who have now moved closer to us, and frankly we could have

conceded a load more goals as well."

Wolves are still fifth after a goalless draw with Crystal Palace, who continue to perform well despite their well-publicised off-the-field problems.

Bury moved out of the bottom three with their first away win of the season, and their first victory in 1999, as Derek Lilley fired them to a 1-0 win at Oxford United.

Bristol City gained their third win in a row, defeating Grimsby 4-1, to move off the foot of the table and within two points of safety. Crewe slipped back to bottom place after drawing 0-0 at home to Port Vale, who are also in the relegation zone after Bury's win.

In the Second Division, Kevin Keegan's Fulham are two points away from promotion after beating Wigan 2-0, while Manchester City are still in with a chance of finishing second after they won 4-0 against Lincoln — Paul Dickov scoring a hat-trick — while Walsall and Preston lost.

"We are reconsidering the situation," Dooley said. "The interests of the club and the supporters are paramount. The club could suffer by any delay in implementing the ban because of any appeal."

Nigerian fans and riot police clashed on Saturday night in Lagos, as protests erupted following their national side's 2-1 defeat to Paraguay in the World Youth Championship. Nigeria's coach, Tunde Disu, was sacked within an hour of the final whistle and had to receive a police escort to leave the stadium.

The defeat was Nigeria's second and could have led to their elimination from the tournament, the first they have had at international level. Costa Rica's surprise 2-1 victory over Germany, though, meant that Nigeria qualified while the Germans were eliminated.

Nigeria now go through to play the Republic of Ireland on Wednesday in Kano. Ghana, Paraguay, Argentina, Croatia, and Mexico have so far joined them in the second round.

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THE NEW

BOOK
OF THE
WEEK

**Hillsborough:
The Truth**
by Phil Scranton
Mainstream Publishing
Projects, £9.99
paperback

I READ this book in a fog of anger. At the disaster itself, naturally, but also at the way the establishment ganged together to make sure that the truth – a scarcely believable story of incompetence and mendacity – was never officially told.

Let's establish a couple of facts. Hillsborough was not caused by alcohol and violence. Liverpool people had not, in Brian Clough's words, "killed their own". A combination of police incompetence and structural defects at the ground caused the disaster. How the world reacted to it was conditioned by the first action of the man in charge. Chief Superintendent David Duckenfield (who had no experience of such events): he informed Graham Kelly that Gate C had been forced by drunken fans.

In fact it was opened by the police. Kelly innocently passed this on in a TV interview. One is left hoping that Mr Duckenfield, who retired through "ill health" to pre-empt disciplinary proceedings, wakes up every morning full of remorse.

Afterwards, the police questioned survivors and bereaved with appalling insensitivity, trying desperately to establish that Leppings Lane that Saturday afternoon had been populated by insensate, aggressive drunkards intent on self-destruction.

Throughout the protracted process of inquest and inquiry, they told despicable and systematic lies at every stage. By the end, my copy was splattered with exclamation marks next to underlined passages.

Here, at random, are one or two of the bits that made my jaw drop: the ambulance driver who tried to drive on to a pitch littered with dead and dying, to be told by a policeman: "You can't go on there, they're still fighting"; another policeman who, when told by the mother of victim Andrew Sefton that he neither smoked nor drank, turned to his colleague and said: "She'll be telling us next he's a bloody virgin!"; the remark to a family member by Mr Justice Stuart-Smith on the steps of the Liverpool Maritime Museum before the so-called independent scrutiny: "Have you got a few of your people or are they like the Liverpool fans, turning up at the last minute?"

The story of the Hillsborough disaster is, in the end, grimly familiar: the little people, the ordinary people, the you and the me, we don't count. Not really. Alive or dead.

CHRIS MAUME

TOP TEN BOOKS

- 1 *Playboy Cricket Annual 1999*, edited by Bill Frith (Headline, paperback, £4.99)
- 2 *Wilden Cricketers' Almanack 1999*, edited by Martin English (John Wisden, hardback, £28.00)
- 3 *Images of War – A Cricketer's Journey*, Steve Walsh (HarperSports, paperback, £3.99)
- 4 *The Cricketers' Who's Who 1999*, edited by Chris Marshall (Queen Anne Press, paperback, £12.95)
- 5 *Hillsborough: The Truth*, Phil Scranton (Mainstream, paperback, £9.99)
- 6 *The Trouble with Millwall... The Life Stories*, edited by Paul Cavilla (Dion Publishing, paperback, £8.99)
- 7 *Almanacco Illustrato del Calcio 1999*, edited by Angelo Beltrami (Panini Italy, hardback, £18.95)
- 8 *Daily Telegraph Cricket World Cup 1999*, Charles Randall (Carlton, paperback, £5.99)
- 9 *Rothmans Rugby League Yearbook 1999*, Raymond Fletcher (Headline, paperback, £17.99)
- 10 *Year Class and Time Turns*, Eddy Brimmon (Headline, paperback, £6.99)

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Constant vigilance is the key to safety of our football fans



The scene at Hillsborough's Leppings Lane end on 15 April 1989 as the FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest became a tragedy that claimed 96 lives and changed football forever

Allsport

IT IS a common misconception that it was the all-powerful demands of television which have forced the FA Cup semi-finals to be moved from Saturday to Sunday. Not so. The Football Association itself, worried about the demand for tickets, instigated the live transmissions after the Hillsborough disaster 10 years ago.

Saturday, 15 April, 1989 was a fine sunny day as over 55,000 supporters crowded into the Sheffield Wednesday ground for the semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest. Two months before, I had been appointed chief executive of the Football Association and was looking forward to my first Cup semi-final in that new role.

My heart sank shortly after the 3pm kick-off when some supporters at the Leppings Lane end had gained access to the perimeter track. A police officer strode on to the pitch to instruct the referee, Ray Lewis of Surrey, to halt the game. There had been a fatal crush on the Leppings Lane terrace, when a Peter Beardsley shot hit the crossbar at the far end. The worst disaster in the history of British football claimed 96 lives. Most of those who died were under 25 years of age.

What happened at Hillsborough to result in such a tragic and wasteful loss of life? By 2.50pm, the two central pens of the Leppings Lane terrace, to the left of the main stand, were virtually at capacity. But, to relieve a dangerous crush outside the ground, the police ordered open an exit gate at the back of the stand. About 2,000 Liverpool fans



This week marks the 10th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster in which 96 Liverpool fans died. Graham Kelly, who, as chief executive of the FA, was present on that fateful day, recounts his experiences and details the lessons learned

hurried in and most went down a tunnel to the central pens, thereby inadvertently causing the crush which led to the deaths.

Shortly after the referee took the players to the dressing-rooms I went to the police control box, which, ironically, overlooked the Leppings Lane terrace, to try to find out what had caused the accident. Chief Superintendent David Duckenfield, in charge of his first major match, told me the Liverpool supporters had forced open an exit gate. Although it soon became clear that the match would not be re-started, the police would not confirm this, for fear of blocking access to the stadium for the emergency vehicles.

After an hour of confusion, during which many heroic acts of assistance were carried out, some by young members of the Sheffield Wednesday staff, I began a series of media interviews which lasted for days. Initially, I recounted the two stories I had heard: Duckenfield's and the opposing view given by fans, i.e. that the gate had been opened by officials. On BBC's *Match*

of the Day that evening I said football should move fans' preference away from standing on the terraces.

The late Lord Justice Taylor, subsequently the Lord Chief Justice, was appointed by the then Home Secretary, Douglas Hurd, to conduct an inquiry and to make recommendations about crowd control and safety. He rejected the police's claim that they could not have anticipated a large, uncooperative crowd in the final half hour before the kick-off, saying it was foreseeable that large numbers would arrive in a concentrated period. Though he accepted that the presence of an unruly minority, who had drunk too much, aggravated the problem, as did poor signage and lighting. It was, he reported, "a blunder of the first magnitude" not to direct the rushing supporters to the wing pens of the terrace, where there was plenty of space for them. There was inefficient monitoring of the crowd levels on the terrace, and nobody realised the danger of allowing too many people to rush into the central pens.

Many police officers, even some in the control box, failed to realise at first that they were contending with a safety issue; they were trying to prevent a pitch invasion, their minds conditioned by two decades of footballism. I made the same initial mistake from my seat in the directors' box. Indeed, there did develop a possibility of conflict as the Liverpool fans became angry at the uncomprehending jeers of the Nottingham Forest supporters at the Kop end, who also read it wrong. A line of police was deployed across the pitch to prevent confrontation.

Civil claims for compensation were later settled, mainly by the police, but also by Sheffield Wednesday Football Club, Eastwood and Partners (their consultant engineers), and the Sheffield City Council, who had responsibility under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act for issuing the safety certificate.

Chief Superintendent Duckenfield left the force on the grounds of ill health. The Police Complaints Authority declined to pursue a case against Superintendent Bob Murray,

who was in charge of the control box, because it was thought unfair to proceed against the more junior of the two officers alone. However, the courts have recently given the go-ahead for a private prosecution of Duckenfield and Murray.

Lord Justice Taylor was very critical of the way football had treated its supporters, and his report was a wide-ranging examination of the state of the game, containing many measures designed to improve its future.

Notwithstanding the Judge's censures, the game was soon to find itself grateful for Lord Taylor's thoughtful consideration of its many problems, for he swiftly consigned to the dustbin the Conservative government's cherished identity card proposal. He thought it would simply be unworkable.

The Taylor Report contained many suggestions that have since helped to transform football into a safer family sport. Ticket touting was made illegal. Obscene or racist chanting became illegal, as did invading the pitch and throwing missiles. Effective stewarding superseded expensive policing. Medical services were vastly improved. Emergency access to the pitch has been improved as perimeter fences have been removed or reduced.

But it was Lord Justice Taylor's primary recommendation that acted as the real catalyst for football dragging itself towards the 21st century. He proposed that big matches should be all-seater. The Government quickly legislated to this effect and

also reduced the Pool Betting Duty on condition the rebate was directed towards the installation of seats.

The scene was set for massive improvements in facilities at nearly every ground. The Football Trust channelled many millions of pounds into the game.

Hillsborough was the latest in a long line of football disasters. The 80s alone had seen deaths at Bradford City and Haysel, following the Ibrox and Burnden Park tragedies in 1971 and 1946 respectively. At Wembley's first ever FA Cup final in 1923 the attendance far exceeded the safe capacity of the stadium.

I pray there will be no recurrence in the new millennium. However, notwithstanding the many improvements in crowd control, when large numbers gather to follow a passionate encounter it is never possible to give absolute guarantees of 100 per cent safety. Organisers must always remain vigilant for, as Lord Taylor said, "Compacency is the enemy of safety."

Also, is it too much to hope that, given the subsequent influx of television cash, the top clubs might take just a little notice of Lord Taylor's wish that his recommendation would not lead to unwarranted increases in the price of tickets?

At the very least, football owes it to the bereaved of Hillsborough not to exploit the memory. England today would not be in a position to bid for an all-seated World Cup 2006 were it not for the disaster that led to the prompt installation of those seats.

CHRIS MAUME

THE WEEK AHEAD: MAIN EVENTS

TOMORROW

Football: Leeds United v Liverpool. David O'Leary's Europe-bound team bid to lengthen their unbeaten run against a Liverpool side which is making headlines for all the wrong reasons. The season's end can't come soon enough for most Kopites. What would Shanks have made of it all?

TUESDAY

Football: Big night in the Nationwide League. Apart from Sunderland, who are certain to go up, First Division promotion contenders Bradford City and Bolton are also in action and all three meet sides starting relegation in the face. Bottom club Bristol City visit the Reebok Stadium, Port Vale entertain the Yorkshire side and Peter Reid's match-winning machine travels to Bury. There are two all-ticket matches in the Second Division; champions-elect Fulham play high-

flying Gillingham while Wigan, with hopes of a play-off place, meet second-placed Preston. The division's surprise package, Walsall, travel to fellow promotion hopefuls AFC Bournemouth.

WEDNESDAY

Cricket: The second one-day international between the West Indies and Australia. Unlike the Test series, we are guaranteed a result with seven matches in the series.

Football: After yesterday's 0-0 stalemate, Arsenal and Manchester United try again at Villa Park in a replay of their FA Cup semi-final. Chelsea visit Middlesbrough as they attempt to upset Premier League ground on United and Arsenal. Gambia "we can't win the league" Vull continues to spout his negative messages but Chelsea are not yet out of it despite his protestations. In the Second Division Manchester City continue their fight to return to the big time with a home fixture against Luton. After a shaky start to the season, City have settled down and have made steady headway on the leaders. Fulham may have fared better. Preston and Walsall are looking over their shoulders.

FRIDAY

Cricket: Final of the Sharjah Cup. **Rugby League:** Leeds have made a faltering start to their Super League campaign despite making the Challenge Cup final but they will have to make short work of Hull if they are to retain any genuine title ambitions.

SATURDAY

Snooker: And so it begins. The World Snooker Championship at the Crucible, Sheffield, which ends on Bank Holiday Monday 3 May. Late nights in front of the TV watching new faces break through and the old guard trying to hang on. Most popular result would be a win for Jimmy White, the best player never to have won etc etc, but, unlike racing, snooker is not noted for dishing up fairytale endings. **Rugby:** A week after Aintree comes another Grand National, this time the Scottish version at Ayr. There are new many fallers in this marathon due to the kinder Ayr fences but it doesn't make it any easier to find the winner. Get the pin out. On the Flat, Newbury stages an important 2000 Guineas trial, the Greenham Stakes.

THE WEEK AHEAD: SPORT ON TELEVISION

TODAY

14.45 BBC One *On Cue* with Steve Davis. The former world No 1 looks back at the 1994 World Championship final, when Stephen Hendry beat Jimmy White. **19.00-19.30 BBC1** *A Question of Sport* All-star line-up – live. **Narrator:** Jenny Pittman, **Dickie Birt** and **George Best**. **23.55-00.30 BBC2** *Ice Skating* A couple of weeks after the event, this features the gala from the World Championships in Helsinki. **00.55-01.30 CS** *Live and Dangerous* Includes ice hockey and Japanese IndyCar.

Satellite highlights **19.00-22.15 Sky Sports 1** *Live Football* Leeds United v Liverpool. **22.00-13.30** **BBC2** *Ice Skating* A couple of weeks after the event, this features the gala from the World Championships in Helsinki. **22.00-13.30 CS** *Live and Dangerous* Includes ice hockey and Japanese IndyCar.

TOMORROW

13.55-16.00 CS *Racing* Four races from Newmarket, including, at 3.10, the Nell Gwyn Stakes, which generally serves as a form guide to the 1,000 Guineas. **16.10-16.45 BBC2 *Sporting Greats* With Steve Conn. **20.00-21.30 CS** *Are You Being Cheated?* Consumer watchdog programme looks at the tricks of the gambling industry. **23.55-00.30 BBC2 *Ice Skating* Second half of the gala from the recent World Championships. **00.45-01.30 CS** *Live and Dangerous* Includes ice hockey and Japanese IndyCar.****

Satellite highlights **12.00-13.30** **16.00-18.00 Sky Sports 2** *Live Cricket* India v Pakistan. **13.30-17.30** **BBC2** *Sporting Greats* With Elvyn Huily. **22.00-23.30 BBC1** *They Think It's All Over Now* Hancock's half-hour of laddery returns, with Gary Lineker, David Gower and Rory McGrath back in the hot seats. **23.55-00.30 CS** *Live and Dangerous* Includes Asian football.

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FRIDAY

14.10-14.35 BBC2 *Top Gear* Take Two. Features an item on speedway. **14.35-16.00** **BBC2** *Racing* From Newbury. **Satellite** **12.00-13.30** **16.00-18.00 Sky Sports 2** *Live Cricket* West Indies v Australia. **13.30-16.00** **BBC2 *Racing* From Newbury.**

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When Big Bill saved United

JUVENTUS supporters will have to pay three times as much as the visiting Manchester United fans to see the second instalment of the European Cup semi-final. This is because there will be singing and dancing in the Juventus sections of the ground. (Variation of an old joke, which Paddy Crerand used to relate about Celtic v Rangers.)

United are relieved to have a leg to stand on after being bewildered by the technique of their opponents for much of the match at Old Trafford. Not for the first time, impressive domestic form has been undermined by Continentals, in spite of the integration which has taken place in the English game since the days when a cosmopolitan was thought to be an ice cream.

Real Madrid were awesome during the formative years of European competition. Matt Busby, returning from a scouting trip to Spain prior to the first leg of the 1957 semi-final, was unable to resist calling them "great", even

within the hearing of his United players. Turning to his right back, Bill Foulkes, a tough, non-nonsense ex-miner, Busby warned him about Real's left-winger, Gento. "He can run, Bill, he can run." There was also an Argentinian, Di Stefano, who ran the whole show.

Foulkes was fairly pleased with his marking of Gento in the Bernabeu Stadium, where Real won 3-1. United drew the return match 2-2, although Foulkes recalled that Di Stefano and Co "played us off the park".

The Munich air disaster came between United and a possible meeting with Real Madrid in 1958. Foulkes climbed out of the wreckage and went on to complete 35 European Cup ties, a club record due to be equalled by Peter Schmeichel in Turin in nine days' time.

Foulkes, converted to centre-half, was a pillar of the United team propelled by Bobby Charlton, Denis Law and George Best in the 1960s, and in 1968 he demonstrated that inspiration is not exclusive to



JOHN ROBERTS
In 1968, Bill Foulkes demonstrated that inspiration is not exclusive to artists

artists. Drawn against Real Madrid in the European Cup semi-finals, United arrived at the Bernabeu with a 1-0 lead from the first leg. But by half time in the return match Real were leading, 3-1.

Busby emphasised that the score was only 3-2 on aggregate and that a goal would force a replay in

Lisbon because extra time was not scheduled. Real seemed content to keep possession without pressing in the second half, until David Sadler put the ball in their net off a knee.

With a place in the final in the balance, Crerand prepared to take a throw, looking for options. Foulkes jogged out of defence and called for the ball. Crerand, shaping to make a throw to Foulkes, noticed that Best's marker had moved slightly and delivered the ball to the winger.

Foulkes continued to jog forward as Best beat his man, moved to the line, and prepared to shoot the ball. The near post was heavily protected, so Best cut the ball back for Foulkes. "I wouldn't say I shot the ball," Foulkes recounted, "but as it came across I could see the target clearly about two-thirds of the goal. I sort of passed the ball in the direction of the target, striking it firmly with the inside of my right boot. It went into the net beautifully - the best sidefoot pass I ever

made." United defeated Benfica in the final at Wembley, 4-1 after extra time. "I had no doubts about us winning," Foulkes said, "even when it was 1-1 at the end of normal time."

Now the scene is set for an extraordinary night in Turin. Juventus are strongly placed, having scored at Old Trafford. They would have felt more secure had their first-half superiority produced more than one goal, and they saw how heartened United were by a spirited second-half performance and Ryan Giggs' late equaliser.

Juventus will not play for a goalless draw, although it would see them into the final. Imagine that neither side's defence has yielded and the seconds are ticking away. Schmeichel has made his quota of last-ditch saves, and is as restless as Alex Ferguson. So he prepared for a dramatic finish. Schmeichel jogs upfield and heads the winner from a David Beckham corner. The singing and dancing is at the United end. And then we wake up.

LETTER FROM... MOROCCO



From pop stars to budding football stars, the beach in Morocco provides inspiration and fun as the world's favourite game wins new followers KATZ Pictures

Hey Joe, can I play too?

IN ESSAOUIRA they play football in the footsteps of Jimi Hendrix. When the wind, blowing in off the Atlantic, abates sufficiently, they play along the beach near the small Moroccan fishing port the guitarist frequented for inspiration in the 1960s. When it is too hot to be out of the shade, they play using the town's narrow alleys as their pitch and the arched stone doorways as their goals. Whatever the weather, they play in the central square edged with cafes for tourists who seem bemused that such enjoyment can be had from kicking a stone. The story is the same elsewhere in Morocco - on the sands in Agadir on Sunday mornings (when hundreds take part in 15 or 20-a-side games on the beach) and in the souks of Marrakech - if it can be kicked, you have got yourself a game. Football has come of age in this corner of North Africa.

"How much is this the one?" I asked the shopkeeper, pointing to the red and white ball hanging next to

the replica shirts bearing the name Moustapha Hadji (the country's latest greatest player, recently voted African player of the year for 1998) outside Essaoouira's only sports shop.

"A hundred and twenty dirhams (28)," the shopkeeper said, adding, as if there were some strange significance to the fact, "and we have one in green and white."

"I'll give you 100," I said, making an obligatory attempt at haggling. The shopkeeper considered for a second before lowering his price to 110. I pulled all my money from my pocket and found I had 109.5.

"A hundred and nine," I said, and the shopkeeper went into the back of the shop, found a deflated green ball on a shelf, and asked his assistant to inflate it with a car tyre pump. I gave the spare half dirham to an old lady with an outstretched palm, but as she took it, she kept one eye on the ball.

Quite why a football should com-

mand such interest is a mystery. Perhaps the mere fact that it was not a stone. Perhaps because, unlike the town or most things in it, it was gleaming new. Or perhaps because the country's passion for the game is increasing due to Hadji's award and the national side being on the up and up.

Morocco may have had some illustrious characters in its footballing history (such as Hajd Lardi Benbarek, nicknamed the "Black Pearl", who played for France in the pre-independence era of the 1940s), it may have become the first African nation to reach the last 16 in a World Cup finals (in Mexico in 1986), but only now is it making real headway.

The game has only been professional in the country since 1996, when the Royal Moroccan Football Federation decided to make it so to help the national side. In 1997, the country qualified both for the following year's African Nations Cup

and France 98 without losing a qualifier in either competition. In 1998, Hadji flourished on the international stage, with a spectacular World Cup goal against Norway, and became a favourite with his club side in Spain, Deportivo La Coruña.

Salaheddine Bassir, a team-mate of Hadji's at both club and international level, consolidated his reputation as a striker with goals for Morocco in France (including two against Scotland) and Deportivo in Spain. Hassan Kachoul became the first Moroccan to play in England, for Southampton, and his sterling performances in a shaky outfit have already secured him a regular place in his national side. Football has become a passion, not because its local heroes can be slavishly tracked as they make it abroad ("Southampton? Kachoul is for Chelsea, not" said one Essaouiran), but because anyone can do it and the country as a whole is doing it well.

Perhaps the green ball, because

it was being carried by a tourist through the main square like an invitation for a match, held extra allure. A child of about 10 ran from behind and punched the ball from beneath my elbow. He was almost clean away before I managed a tackle amidst some tables to regain possession.

Only on the beach, later, did anyone actually ask to play with it. An impromptu match ensued at around 5.30 and continued until after 7.00, when the tide threatened to take away the goalposts and it became barely possible to see. "Hadjiiiiiniiii," shouted the lad who dribbled past the hapless tourist to make it 10-8 to the home team.

"Did Jimi Hendrix play football here?" I asked, to curtail his celebrations. "Probably," said the lad, barely visible in the haze, which was more green - through the reflection of the moon on the ball - than purple.

NICK HARRIS

SPORT ON THE INTERNET

ANDY OLDFIELD



MARATHON RACES occupy a strange place in the sporting arena. Tacky Premiership mascots to one side, it is not often that you get top class international athletes sharing competitive space with amateurs in fancy dress.

That is precisely the case at The Flora London Marathon on Sunday where world-beaters line up, ahead of, if not side by side with, club runners and those doing their bit to raise money for charity - the latter have raised an estimated £80m over the years, according to the official Website.

Half a million make it to the course to watch. Around six million tune in on TV at home. To say nothing of the 30,000 who pull on their running shoes and pound the streets.

The official Website's home page features a slide show of runners and animated logos. Those with browsers set up for audio will be mildly disconcerted when suddenly a heart-beat soundtrack erupts through their speakers.

The site's media pages have details of breaking news stories leading up to the event, such as who has dropped out or been drafted into the elite race in search of \$55,000 prize money. The media pages are also where last year's results (men and women's top 100) and quotes from athletes are archived.

The history section fills in the background to an event that has been running only since 1981. The coaches' corner has snippets of training information, and advice on diet, injury and medical matters.

Worryingly, in the entrant section under runner information there is only a sign saying information will be online in March. Ten days before the start that sign was still there.

SITE ADDRESSES

London Marathon
<http://www.london-marathon.co.uk/>

Boston Marathon
<http://www.bostonmarathon.org/>

Running Newsgroup
news:rec.running

Runnersworld
<http://www.runnersworld.ltd.uk/>

QUESTIONNAIRE

SEBASTIAN COE, FORMER ATHLETE

What did you think of England's first match under Kevin Keegan?

Workmanlike and occasionally exciting.

Which win is more likely - the Tories at the next election or the England football team in Japan in the 2002 World Cup? I'm looking forward to William Hague hosting the Downing Street welcome home party for the team.

Who generally comes out on top when you practise judo with William Hague? Our coach - Ray Stevens - Olympic silver medalist 1992.

What book are you currently reading and is it any good? *Reading Jaz*, edited by Robert Gottlieb, and yes, it's very good.

Have you seen *Shakespeare in Love* and do you agree with all its Oscars? No, not yet.

What more should the Labour government be doing to improve British sport? Keep away from it!

Chess is now officially a sport (for Lottery purposes). Should darts be next?



No. Whatever next? Ballroom dancing!

How fast can you run the 800 metres these days? I no longer use a stopwatch but an hourglass.

How do you get on with Steve Ovetz? Very well.

What was the last CD you bought? *The Genius of Lester Young*.

If you lost your hair, would you wear a wig? I'm delighted no one has spotted it yet!

NICK HARRIS

SPORTING VERNACULAR

9. BIRDIE

AT THE Augusta National on Saturday, golfer Steve Fale made US Masters history when he made seven birdies in a row, on his way to a third round of 65.

The origin of some golfing terms - "bogey" for example - are well documented, while terms like "albatross" and "eagle" are playful avian extensions of "birdie". The etymology of the word itself, though, is lost to history, even though it is a fairly recent term.

There is a hoary old tale of a probably mythical Colonel Bird, while the *Times* etymologist Philip Howard believes the word dates from the beginning

of the century - when much golfing terminology was fixed - from the older American slang of "bird" for somebody or something smart or accomplished.

Another possibility is suggested by a usage cited in the *Oxford English Dictionary Supplement* from *Maclean's Magazine* in 1911: "Lanesborough followed with a 'bird' straight down the course, about two hundred and fifteen yards." Perhaps, then the word simply refers to the ball in flight, with a diminutive ending for particularly good examples, i.e. those that end in a stroke gained.

CHRIS MAUME

THE WEEK AHEAD. FIXTURES

TODAY
FOOTBALL (7.45 unless stated): See page 15.
CRICKET: Coca-Cola Cup (one-day): England v Pakistan (12.00) (at Sharjah). First-class matches (first day of three): Nottinghamshire v Cambridge University (11.30) (at Trent Bridge). RUGBY (Flat meetings in capitals): Kato (first race, 2.0); Windsor (2.15).

TOMORROW
FOOTBALL (7.45 unless stated): Middlesbrough v Sunderland; Grimsby v Queens Park Rangers; Port Vale v Bradford City; West Cardiff; Swansea v Hartlepool; Torquay v Barnet; Burnley; Bournemouth v Walsley; Fulham v Gillingham; Lincoln City v Reading; Macclesfield v Chesterfield; Northampton v York; Notts County v Wrexham; Oxford v Bristol Rovers; Wigan v Preston; Third Division Brighton v Shrewsbury; Cambridge United v Rochdale; Carlisle v Hull; Chester v Brentford; Exeter v Rotherham; Leyton Orient v Plymouth; Mansfield v Halifax; Scunthorpe v Peterborough (7.30); Southend v Cardiff; Swansea v Hartlepool; Torquay v Barnet; Middlesbrough v Sunderland; Grimsby v Queens Park Rangers; Port Vale v Bradford City; West Cardiff; Swansea v Hartlepool; Torquay v Barnet; Burnley; Bournemouth v Walsley; Fulham v Gillingham; Lincoln City v Reading; Macclesfield v Chesterfield; Northampton v York; Notts County v Wrexham; Oxford v Bristol Rovers; Wigan v Preston; Third Division Brighton v Shrewsbury; Cambridge United v Rochdale; 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Scunthorpe v Peterborough (7.30); Southend v Cardiff; Swansea v Hartlepool; Torquay v Barnet

Five Nations' Championship: Howarth encapsulates transformation from clumsy incompetence to Red splendour



Spirit of victory: Wales's Neil Jenkins (left) watches team-mate Colin Charvis charge through a tackle from Jonny Wilkinson during his side's 32-31 triumph over England at Wembley yesterday

David Ashdown

Welsh leave their mark in history

AND SO, amazingly, there is a little corner of north-west London that will be forever Wales. How wonderfully bizarre that one of the most thrilling feats in the history of Welsh rugby should take place in a home match played on enemy territory, where their temporary residency had previously yielded four defeats in five matches. All that and much more besides, not least the run of five consecutive defeats at England's hands, disappeared in the third minute of injury time at Wembley yesterday when Scott Gibbs swerved across the line with his hand in the air.

RICHARD WILLIAMS
AT WEMBLEY

came out for the second period determined to get something from the day. So, after Scotland's win in Paris on Saturday, this topsy-turvy weekend brought down the curtain on a tournament that has been continuously contested since 1910, when Wales opened the series

by scoring 10 tries in a 39-14 win over France.

Two tries were enough to do the job for yesterday's winners, against England's three. The difference, in terms of points, was the contribution of Jenkins, who kicked nervously and flawlessly, landing every one of his six penalties and two conversions. It may be cruel to point it out, but Jonny Wilkinson's failure to land his eminently kickable conversion of Steve Hanley's 20th-minute try, the boy wonder's only miss in seven attempts, turned out to be the difference between victory and defeat for his team.

The brave Jenkins had kept Wales in the game during a first half in which little went right for them as they tried to make Clive Woodward pay for his temerity in giving an England debut to a man named after

Wales's greatest player. Jenkins's 18 points, against England's half-time aggregate of 25, were kicked into the teeth of a stiff breeze that must have added an effective 10 metres or so to the two angled kicks from close to 40 metres that he landed after 25 minutes and in first-half injury time.

Nevertheless the interval was spent in contemplation of England's general superiority. With the wind at their backs, the white shirts swept through the red defence like racing yachts slipping past a line of tethered buoys. They made their point as early as the second minute, when Mike Catt's exchange with Wilkinson ushered Dan Luger in for a try that rocked the Welsh confidence. Twenty minutes later, Richard Cockrell and Tim Rodber worked a nifty line-out trick which al-

lowed Catt once again to provide the quick pass for Hanley to smash across the line.

But odds things were already happening. Craig Quinell, slow to rise from a ruck on the halfway line, found that by the time he got to his feet the ball had been across the field and come back again, putting him in the perfect position to act as an auxiliary wing. Fed by the nearest back, he galumphed up the line until he met Hanley, the 6ft 6in prodigy. The younger Quinell hit the Sale boy, supposedly the English Jonah Lomu, with exactly the abrupt ferocity that the All Black had flattened Tony Underwood on that amazing day in Cape Town in 1995.

But by this time any admiration of the spirit in which Wales approached the match was being submerged by concern

about their safety and clumsiness. Both defects were in evidence three minutes before half-time, when Shane Howarth and Gareth Thomas went for Matt Dawson's high kick, their painful collision inviting Richard Hill to collect the loose ball and notch England's third try.

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP	
P	W D L F A Pts
Scotland	4 3 0 1 120 79 6
England	4 3 0 1 103 78 6
Wales	4 2 2 0 109 126 4
Ireland	4 1 0 3 66 90 2
France	4 1 0 3 75 100 2

RESULTS: 6 Feb: Ireland 9 France 10; Scotland 33 Wales 20; 20 Feb: Wales 23 Ireland 29; England 24 Scotland 21; 6 March: France 33 Wales 34; Ireland 15 England 27; 20 March: England 21 France 10; Scotland 30 Ireland 13; Saturday: France 22 Scotland 36; Yesterday: Wales 32 England 31

Up to that point, Howarth had been having a bit of a shocker. This was a match in which his defensive qualities were most urgently required, given that Wales's midfield defence was offering all the deterrent properties of a bunch of lace doilies. But it was he who changed the mood at the start of the second period, first kicking a long clearance that Neil Back knocked on, and then, barely a minute later, looping round the right-side cover with Jenkins's floated pass in his hands, to score the try that gave Jenkins the chance to bring Wales level for the first time.

For the rest of the match, Howarth's catching, kicking and running were of inspirational quality.

Two Wilkinson penalties gave England a six-point lead which lasted from the 54th to

the 68th minute, a period of feverish rugby in which moments of brilliance from both sides were mixed with equally remarkable blunders and fumbles. For once, the mistakes did nothing to spoil the match as a spectacle. In fact the more the Welsh gave the ball away, the more determined they seemed to atone for their errors.

The nerve-shredding climax meant that next year, when they come to tear Wembley Stadium down, the readiest market for pieces of the old place will surely be in Wales. Every clubhouse in the principality should have a shard of stone or a mound of soil, preserved above the bar like pieces of the true cross, as a memento of the day when all the tribulations and humiliations of the recent past were most gloriously swept away.

Gibbs ends England's dreams

continued from page 1

has always been described in the valleys as "the shoulder charge from heaven".

Jenkins, swinging the priceless tool of his trade like Tiger Woods in a smooth groove, banged his penalty punt from one 22 to the other, and when Chris Wyatt, magnificent in the Welsh second-row, won the line-out with an arching stretch of the back, Gibbs was duly released on his glory run into history. England, a point adrift and horribly aware that they had

only 60 short seconds to conjure a reply, quickly worked Mike Catt into drop-goal range, but Catt is no Jenkins. He sliced his opportunity and knew instantly that he would not be granted a second chance.

The comforting events of the first half, which included a slashing try for Dan Luger on two minutes and an imperious first-cap gallop to the line for Hanley at the end of the opening quarter, now seemed light years away to English minds. Dallaglio, aided and abetted by the faithful Richard Hill and

some productive ploughing from the tractors in the front five, denied the Welsh meaningful possession for minutes on end: indeed, the "home" side, so to speak, had to wait until injury time to put together anything resembling a sustained attacking move. And no, it did not result in a try. Just another Jenkins penalty, his sixth.

Indeed, when Gareth Thomas and Shane Howarth made the mother of all non-senses of a straightforward Dawson punt two minutes before the break - the unflagging

Hill was there to hoover up the spilled ball and crash over in Mark Taylor's tackle - the whole affair looked done and dusted. No such English luck. Back's uncharacteristic fumble in the opening minute of the second half gave the Welsh the platform to manufacture a clever right-flag try for Howarth and from that point, it was an afternoon for neurotics. Most of them, if not all, turned out to be wearing white shirts rather than red.

"I thought it was close to the posts but really I felt comfortable all day," Jenkins said. "I'm

so chuffed for the boys, the management and all the fans. It's been brilliant."

Howarth said he owed his thanks for his effort to a pinpoint ball from Jenkins.

"Thanks Jenks," he said on television after the game. Asked if he had known anything like it as an All Black, the full-back said: "I've never experienced anything like this. It's great to repay the fans like that. We didn't repay them in the first half but we repaid them with a bit of magic from the two old fellas in the midfield."

WALES: S Howarth (Sale); G Thomas (Cardiff); M Taylor (Swansea); S Gibbs (Swansea); D James (Pontypridd); N Jenkins (Pontypridd); R Howarth (Cardiff, capt); P Rogers (London Irish); G Jenkins (Swansea); B Evans (Swansea); S Hanley (Sale); M Catt (Bath); M Dawson (Northampton); J Leonard (Harlequins); R Cockrell (Leicester); D Garforth (Leicester); R Johnson (Leicester); T Rodber (Northampton); R Hill (Saracens); L Dallaglio (Wasps, capt); N Back (Leicester). Referee: A Watson (South Africa).

Mistakes cost Triple Crown

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

IT WAS a catalogue of errors from start to finish. The final one came from Wembley's smooth announcer, who managed to give the wrong score-line while the delirious Wales team and their delighted supporters were celebrating the marvellous Scott Gibbs try which won it for them.

But given the number of errors Wales had committed in the game there was more than an element of luck to it.

The Welsh mistakes were generally a team affair, but for sheer individual contributions England flanker Neil Back took the honours. He it was who churlishly bunged on to the ball when Wales were awarded a penalty.

When South African referee André Watson called him to account there appeared to be an exchange of views which resulted in England conceding another 10 metres. And those were enough to bring the lethal boot of Neil Jenkins into range.

That kick on the half hour brought Wales right back into the game. Then, within two minutes of the second half, Back ran back into the England 22 to cover a deep searching kick from Shane Howarth.

He turned around as the ball sailed over his head, but when he got his hands to it he knocked on. The Leicester flanker hoofed the ball into touch, but the referee had spotted the error, and, from the scrum, Wales set up the attack from which Howarth was sent over by a beautiful Neil Jenkins miss pass.

That try by the New Zealand-born Howarth went some way to making amends

for the crassest of mistakes late in the first half.

The neatest of chip kicks by England scrum-half Matt Dawson threw the Welsh defence into confusion - well two of their number at least. Right wing Gareth Thomas appeared to have gathered the ball safely, not having taken his eyes off it once as it described its wicked parabola.

Unfortunately the ball was also under close observation by Howarth. He, too, kept his eyes on the ball and, inevitably, they collided. Given the level of noise within Wembley it was not surprising that neither of them heard the other.

Thomas spilled the ball, and it rolled obligingly for Richard Hill, who was dutifully following up. The England flanker scooped up the loose offering and, despite being tackled, somehow bounced his way over the line.

The frequency of turnovers by Wales was appalling for this level. It seemed that every time a Welshman came into contact with the opposition he would surrender the ball.

And when they were not turning over possession they were either not recycling quickly enough, thereby allowing England to reform their defences, or they were getting caught offside or not releasing.

But they were not alone in less than perfect performance. England, too, fell foul of over-eagerness and, perhaps, at the very end, of slackness. The Triple Crown prize paid for the mistake was victory, the championship, and the Grand Slam.

Telfer walks tall as he talks of 'tremendous' achievement

SCOTLAND COACH Jim Telfer celebrated his side's first Five Nations' Championship triumph since 1990 with a quiet night in at his parents' house.

Telfer, whose side demolished France 36-22 in Paris on Saturday to set up yesterday's gripping finale, watched all the action on TV and could barely disguise his delight. "It is tremendous, unbelievable," he said.

Of Scott Gibbs's last-gasp try which gave Wales a famous victory and hand Scotland the title, Telfer added: "That was the first time they breached the England defence in the entire 80 minutes."

It is a fitting end to a campaign which saw Scotland score 16 tries, culminating in Saturday's record win.

The favourites to receive

BY MIKE TURNER

the wooden spoon at the start of the tournament, Telfer's men exceeded all expectations.

In John Leslie and Gregor Townsend they had two of the stars of the competition and few will deny them this accolade. Telfer's third championship as Scottish coach, following the previous Grand Slam triumphs in 1984 and 1990.

"It is raining up here," he said from his Galashiels home, "but the sun is shining in my house. England seemed to be coasting I didn't think Wales could do it. But they had a chance to kick which would have taken them nine points clear and I suppose they have paid for that mistake."

"If they had taken their chances there wouldn't have been such a nervous ending. I

don't think anyone can deny our brand of rugby has been entertaining," he added. "We have tried to be enterprising and given the crowds something to get excited about."

"England conceded six tries in the competition and we scored three of those. We have deserved our success."

"We were supposed to be wooden spoonists and I think there is only myself and the rest of the squad who felt we were going to do as well as we did," he added.

The No 8 Stuart Reid, who was winning only his second cap in Saturday's game, spent the afternoon in an Edinburgh bar with fellow Scotland heroes Scott Murray, Martin Leslie and John Leslie.

Unlike Telfer their celebrations were rather more traditional. "It is fantastic, brilliant,"

said Reid. "We're going to have a few beers and a bottle of champagne."

"Obviously, I only came in for the one game, but I've been around the team all the time and they have been absolutely superb."

"But no one deserves this more than Jim Telfer."

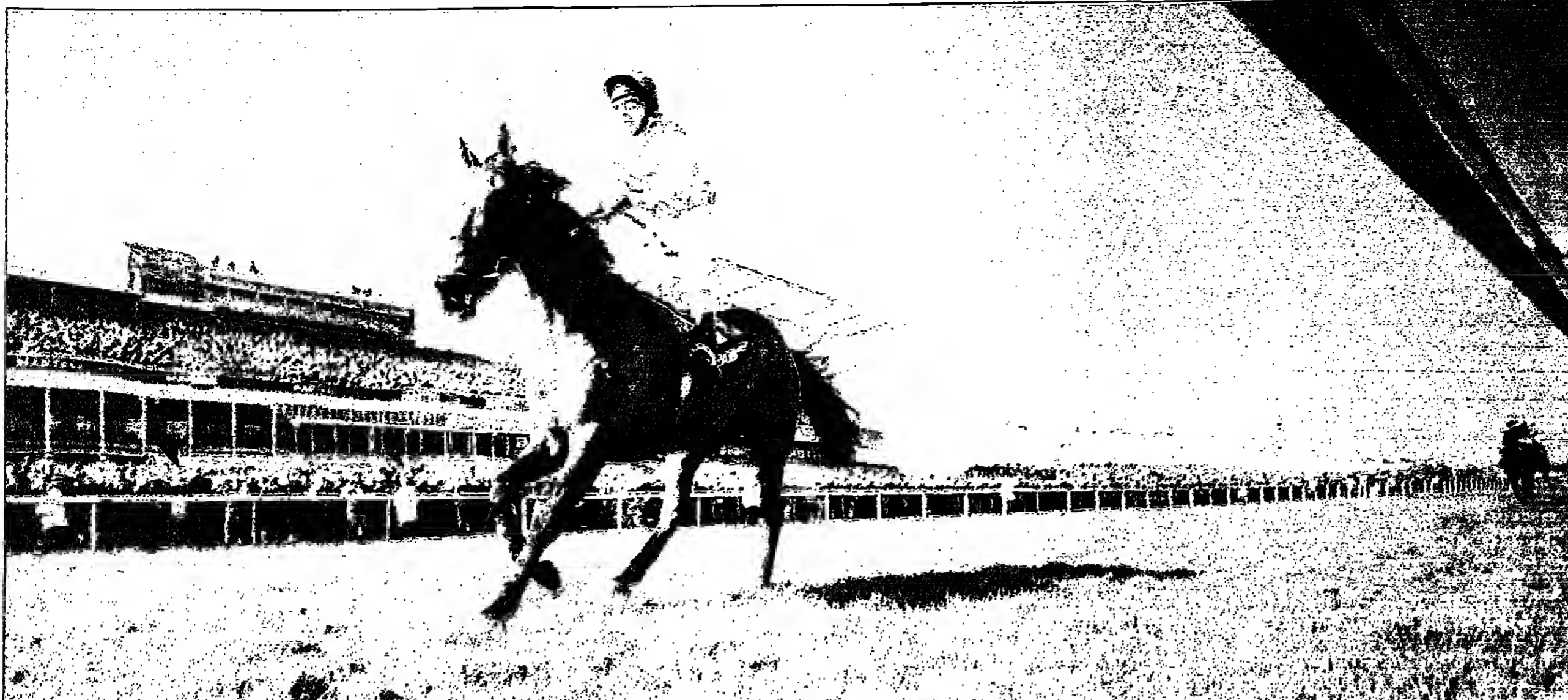
Reid then added his name to that of Kenny Logan and captain Gary Armstrong in pleading with the man who formed part of the coaching team on the 1997 British Lions tour to stay in the job.

"He's honest and hard-working. There is no greater compliment than to see Scotland winning the title again under his guidance."

"But results like yesterday only come along once in a lifetime. These are moments I will cherish forever."



England's Lawrence Dallaglio is bowed by defeat PA



Standing ovation: Paul Carberry has time to rise from the saddle to take the acclaim of the Aintree crowd as he comes home 10 lengths clear of Blue Charm in the Grand National on Saturday

David Ashdown

Carberry has Grand reason to party

AS HE CAME in after winning the Grand National on Bobbyjo it was rather odd to see Paul Carberry swinging from a bar in the weighing-room roof. Usually, he's leaning on them.

When you think Carberry, you don't have to intellectualise. Just limit it to: bloody good rider, bloody good party man. When this Irishman visited Blarney Castle the stone was away having its 25,000-kiss service. You could write down more from an interview with Marcel Marceau than you get from the 25-year-old, but he always says one thing. "Do you know all those terrible stories they tell about me?" he asks. "They're all true." They call him Alice in the weighing room but he could also quite easily be the Mad Hatter.

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON
Racing Correspondent

Paul Carberry stories are legend in racing. A theme to them is drinking. And we are not talking milkshake here. A feature of Saturday's race was how Carberry made great play of the fact that he was in bed by 9pm the previous evening. (He usually isn't, well not the pm hit anyway). The jockey appeared to think he had made some sort of Faustian sacrifice.

Despite their meagre physical proportions jumps jockeys are not the lightest drinkers on the planet. Considerable celebration is a valve for men who regularly put life and limb on the line. And among the cohort Carberry is Group class. He

also happens to be among the most popular men in racing.

It would have been easy to accuse Paul Carberry of trading on his father's name. Tommy Carberry, Bobbyjo's trainer and the last man to pilot an Irish winner of the National before Saturday (L'Escargot in 1975), was a consummate rider. He too was only slightly less effective on the bar stool than he was in the saddle.

Carberry jr could have folded under the scrutiny. Yet people do not say that he is hanging on to family coat-tails. In fact, he loses nothing by comparison.

Not least of the younger man's qualities is his courage. Perhaps the only plausible excuse for hunting is that it en-

ables us to see Carberry on horseback chasing quarry over rough terrain. Out in the country, "Alice" will try to jump anything. If he had heard the farmyard gossip, Carberry would certainly have been the man to partner the cow on its jump over the moon. He makes his horses vault and he makes them as brave as he is.

So it was on Saturday, as Bobbyjo treated the nation's most formidable fences as if they were rows of matchboxes.

The Grand National is a grand challenge for horsemen like Carberry, an opportunity to test skill and nerve against this most fearsome Medusa. As a 16-year-old he rode Joseph Knibb in the Fox Hunters' over the big, shaggy obstacles. The

horse hurried him at Becher's Brook and undertakers almost had to do the same. But Liverpool continued to hold its fascination for him.

The plan for '99 was to switch off Bobbyjo and get him relaxed. Carberry could not have done it better had he brought the horse a mug of cocoa and read him a story. The Irish horse skipped round the inside, distinguishable largely by his pilot's posture (bottom huffing the sky).

There was no mistake, which was just as well as Aintree does not allow for many of those. The Grand National meeting always delights and shocks. Horses have perished this week, just as they will always do at the highest level of

competition when every sinew and bone is subjected to the severest pressure.

The National itself claimed yet another for its grim historical log when Eudip: went at Becher's oo the second circuit. He was driven into the fence by Tony McCoy just at a time when his enthusiasm for the fray seemed to be ebbing. The gelding fell in a nauseating death thrash, his neck broken - some reward for a season of consistency at the top level.

Bobbyjo was still snoozing along at that stage and was still only sixth two obstacles out. Then he got his wake-up call and the race was over. Carberry pointed his vehicle down the outside and the acceleration was so instant that there was

time for a prolonged victory salute. He stood up in the stirrups, knees locked, tall enough for a helicopter to have come down and whisked him away.

The Bobbys and Jos who had backed him up and down the nation may have been slightly unnerved by this gesture, but there was no chance of Carberry falling off. His balance is unmatched. He could sleep on a washing line.

In the winners' enclosure there was jubilation. There are no better winners in the racing world than the Irish, people who might go delicious in victory but somehow manage to carry you with them rather than feeling green-eyed on the outside. In the adjacent berth to Bobbyjo, Blue Charm's stablelass was

sobbing through a combination of pride and relief. It's like that with the Grand National.

When they got Paul Carberry down from the weighing-room beam, plans for the preliminary stages of the party (up to the millennium) had probably already been established.

Among this maelstrom was Bobby Burke, the winning owner who bought Bobbyjo in a transaction in a Galway hostelry. Burke is in the pub business himself (he owns 22 watering holes in the London area), which by no means distances himself instinctively from the Carberrys. Their party (which is just warming up) will be memorable one. Those that emerge from it will be asking what won the Grand National.

VIEW FROM THE SADDLE: 32 NATIONAL TALES

Paul Carberry (Bobbyjo): "We had a good start and were handy throughout. He jumped very well and as we jumped the last I knew he would quicken. I can't get any better than that. It's take a while to set in but it was worth going to bed at nine last night."

Lorcan Wyer (Blue Charm): "I thought there was still a circuit to go coming to the second last as he was going so easy. I had a look round and saw the wizard, Paul Carberry, and he whizzed by me. My horse began to get very tired and he did well to hang on to second place in the end."

Richard Dunwoody (Call It A Day): "He gave me a superb ride and he made only one mistake. I thought I was going to win at the last but he got tired and then stayed on again from The Elbow."

Adrian Maguire (Addington Boy): "We had a chance two out and he gave me a great ride."

Brian Harding (Feels Like Gold): "I had a great ride. He ran a lot better than I thought he would. The ground was a bit quick."

Philip Hyde (Brave Highlander): "It's unfortunate he had an interrupted preparation but I was able to ride a race on him which is a good thing."

Berry Fenton (Kendal Cavalier): "I was delighted with him. He was nearly brought down at Becher's second time round."

Carl Llewellyn (Earth Summit): "We both enjoyed it very much, though he was nearly brought down at Becher's second time round."

Jimmy Frost (St Mellion Fairway): "He got round and beat one or two, but the ground was too fast for him."

Rodney Farrant (Samlee): "I had an absolutely brilliant spin. I was fifth or sixth all the way to Becher's second time. But then he burst a blood vessel, otherwise I think he would have run very well."

Andrew Thornton (Naththen Lad): "He jumped from fence to fence. Lorcan Wyer asked how I was going at one stage. I said 'fantastic', but I didn't know how well he was going."

Norman Williamson (General Wolfe): "He ran a great race. He went on the ground but wasn't quick enough. The speed horses went past him at Valentines and he wants it softer."

Graham Bradley (Sunny Bay): "I was a bit disappointed with him. He never travelled well. The ground was too quick for him."

Dean Gallagher (Back Bar): "Great ride. We got round in our own time."

Robert Thornton (Strong Chairman): "A great ride for a circuit."

Garrett Cotter (Merry People): "I rode him to get placed and I think he would have done but for falling."

Tony Dobbin (Avro Anson): "We had a good position all the way. He gave me a good ride but wasn't in love with it all in the end."

Steve Wynne (Coomo Hill): "He gave me a great ride but he gurgled."

Glenn Tormey (Balls Life): "He went too fast for him, he got very tired and we pulled up four out."

Adie Smith (Castle Coin): "I got knocked off about five out - two loose horses knocked me over. He gave me a great ride till then and jumped well. He didn't fall, I was sandwiched."

Mick Fitzgerald (Fiddling The Facts): "She gave me a dream ride and jumped superbly, but she overjumped Becher's and paid the penalty."

Tony McCoy (Eudip): "I don't feel too good myself and I feel very bad for the horse."

Chris Maude (Camelot Knight): "I was gutted. The poor lad just had nowhere to go and he was knocked over. He was going very well at the time - he stays on and I'm sure he would have been in the first four."

Robert Widger (Choisty): "I had a marvellous ride. He was struggling when he fell."

Richard Guest (Frazer Island): "He was cantering when he fell and we would have been in the first four."

Conor O'Dwyer (Cyborgo): "I had a good ride while it lasted. He enjoyed himself early on but his old and clever and wasn't going to do anything he didn't have to."

Tom Jenks (Commercial Artist): "He gave me a great ride for a circuit, but he has been tubed recently and gradually ran out of steam."

Sean Curran (Cavalero): "The saddle slipped. He had jumped great and was going well at the time."

Brendan Powell (Mudahim): "I just fell off. He was making heavy weather of it. I should have pulled him up after two or three."

Timmy Murphy (Tamarindot): "He met Becher's all wrong and that was that. I think he might be a bit lame."

Richard Johnson (Baronet): "He jumped the first three very well, in fact he jumped the fourth very well too, but landed very steeply, lost his back legs and did the splits."

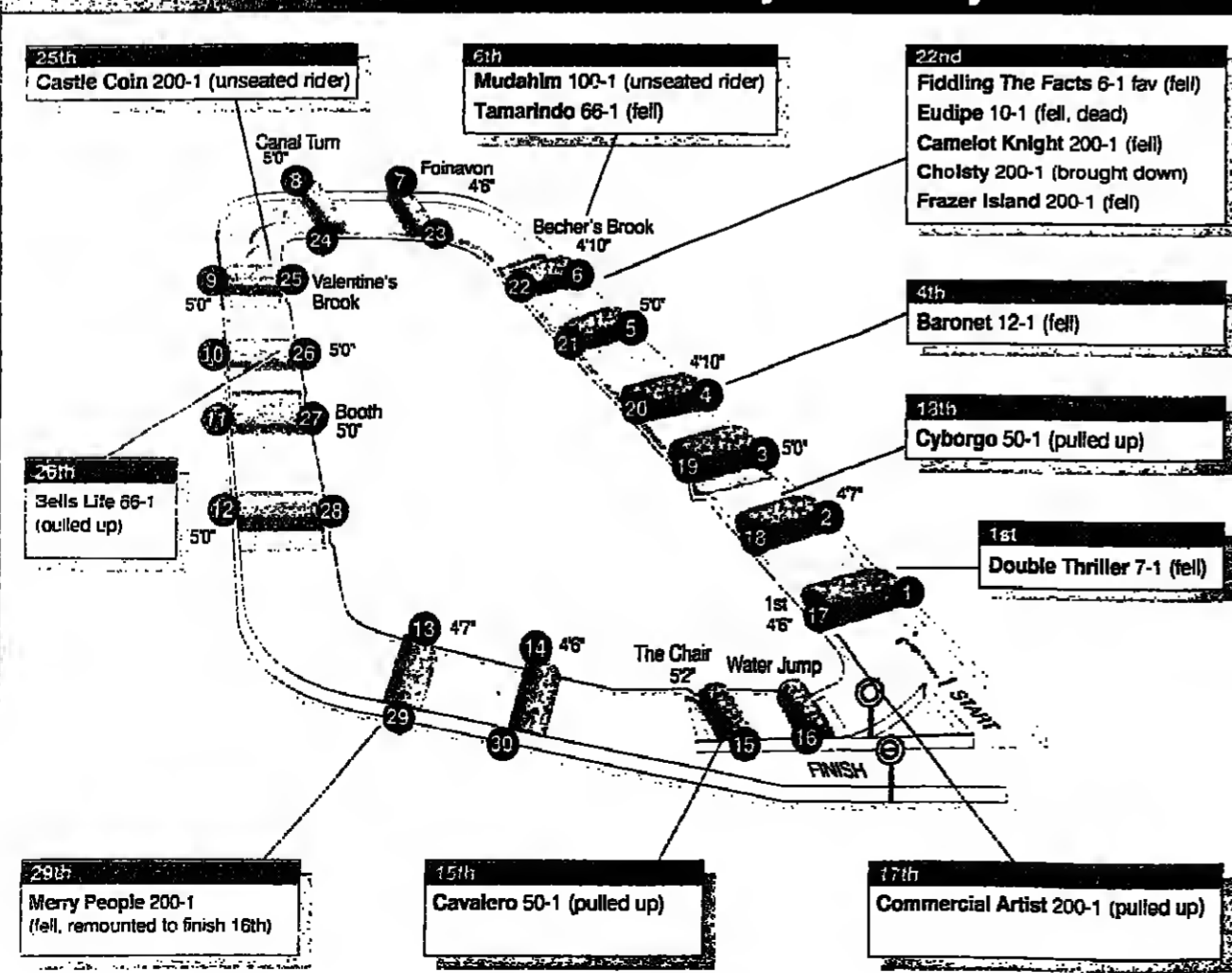
Joe Tizzard (Double Thriller): "He jumped a bit too big and came down on his head."



Viva Bobbyjo: Ratoath, Co. Meath, welcomes back the National winner and Tommy Carberry

Caroline Norris

National breakdown: How and where your money went at Aintree



The finishing order

- 1st BOBBYJO 10-1
- 2nd Blue Charm 25-1 10 lengths
- 3rd Call It A Day 7-1 neck
- 4th Addington Boy 10-1 7 lengths
- 5th Feela Like Gold 50-1 5 lengths
- 6th Brave Highlander 50-1 14 lengths
- 7th Kendal Cavalier 28-1 18 lengths
- 8th Earth Summit 16-1 head
- 9th St Mellion Fairway 200-1 short-head
- 10th Samlee 50-1 14 lengths
- 11th Naththen Lad 14-1 2 lengths
- 12th General Wolfe 18-1 distance
- 13th Sunny Bay 12-1 1 1/4 lengths
- 14th Back Bar 200-1 5 lengths
- 15th Strong Chairman 50-1 1 1/4 lengths
- 16th Merry People 200-1 3/4 length
- 17th Avro Anson 40-1 4 lengths
- Last Coomo Hill 25-1 24 lengths

Bobbyjo heading for Whitbread thriller

BOBBYJO, THE Grand National winner, may reappear in the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown a week on Saturday where he could meet Double Thriller, who fell at the first fence at Aintree on Saturday.

Paul Nicholls, who trains Double Thriller, said yesterday: "He's out in the paddock here now and is as right as rain. It was one of those unfortunate things that happen in a race like the Grand National. He jumped the fence ok but just seemed to crumple and go down."

"Some people reckoned he unseated Joe Tizzard but I've watched the replay and it's definitely a fall. Anyway, the main thing is that the horse is all right as he jumped round loose for a circuit and then pulled himself up. But he seems fine and the Whitbread Gold Cup could be next."

However, Call It A Day, third in the National and last year's Whitbread winner, is unlikely to attempt a repeat victory. He was given a clean bill of health yesterday on his return to David Nicholson's stable. But his trainer, who also reported Baronet none the worse for his

fourth-fence fall in the National, is not keen to aim him at the Sandown feature.

Nicholson said: "Call It A Day and Baronet are absolutely fine. I would doubt that Call It A Day will run in the Whitbread. We will decide in a day or two but he has just gone four and a half miles round Aintree. It is more likely that Baronet will run - he is fine after his fall."

Ferdie Murphy, who trains Addington Boy, is already plotting a tilt at next year's National after the gelding's fourth place. Murphy said yesterday: "Addington Boy will now go on his summer holidays and hopefully he will be back for the race next year. He will start off in the autumn, have a mid-season break, then go back to Aintree. We were delighted with him yesterday. He ran a fantastic race and he has come back in one piece."

Tony McCoy is taking a day off today due to the effects of his heavy fall in the Grand National. The champion jockey, shaken when his mount, Eudip, fell fatally at Becher's on the second circuit on Saturday, will miss today's meeting at Kelso.

Big names take a battering in trials

THE BIN MAN is going to be angry this week. All those extra bags to take away. We are used to the phenomenon of equine reputations being punctured in the spring and betting slips bearing the names of the excited being turned into refuse, but seldom can the process have started so early.

Stravinsky hit the first home note for Aidan O'Brien two weeks ago, and the Irish trainer was let down again yesterday when Blackrock Desert was badly beaten behind Twenty-Two in the Gladness Stakes at the Curragh. He is now 33-1 (from 12-1) for the 2,000 Guineas with William Hill.

O'Brien's great O'Brien rivals might be able to revel in this minor misery, but they have little to cheer from within. The Arabian team's Prado's Landing was last of eight in the Blue Grass Stakes at Keeneland.

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

land on Saturday night and his Kentucky Derby chances look as close to nil as man has yet discovered. Worldly Manner and Aljabr are still on course for the Run For The Roses on 1 May following their domination of a trial in the Emirates.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Kingstree
(Windsor 3.45)
NB: Talathath
(Kelso 5.00)

Trials in the desert have taken on even greater importance since Almutawakel won one and then a fortune in the Dubai World Cup. But Team Godolphin did not get the results they expected when they held their British Classic trials at Nad Al Sheba on Saturday.

The colts' race over a mile was won by the former David Elsworth boarder, Island Sands. Behind him came Mukhalif, a graduate of the David Loder academy who won a conditions race at Ascot last year, and Adair, who collected on his only start over nine furlongs at Belmont Park for Bill Mott as a two-year-old. Back with the flossman were previously sparkling names such as Ifitah, Rhagaas, Dubai Millennium and Lujain. The last-named is almost certainly destined for a sprinting campaign.

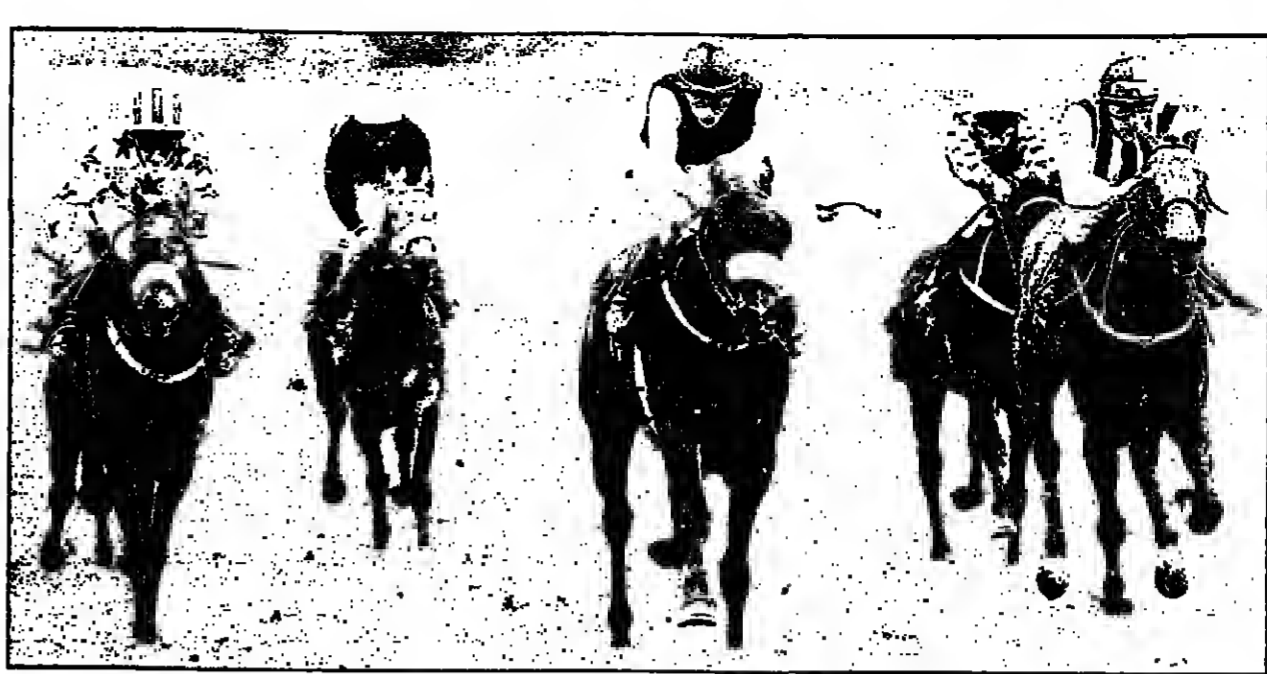
"You plan the whole winter around it, it's an event in order to answer questions before we decide our team for the Classics," Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, said. "Some of the horses we held high expectations for disappointed."

"Ifitah, Dubai Millennium, Rhagaas and Lujain did not perform to the standard required for Classics. I would also put Saytara (last year's French Group winner and disappointing in the fillies' trial) won by Pescara into that same bracket so some high names have dropped slightly by the wayside. Some very high-profile horses did not live up to expectations."

"Rhagaas and Dubai Millennium, who we were hoping were going to be Derby horses, are going to have to prove themselves. We're not now going to set such ambitious targets for them to begin with because they didn't perform as well as other middle-distance colts like Adair and Mukhalif."

"Rhagaas is a mile-and-a-half horse, but if he's a Derby contender he needs to be up there in a race like yesterday's."

"Dubai Millennium was behind schedule in his work and will improve, but even taking



Bad day for Blackrock: Twenty-Two (noseband) wins yesterday's Gladness Stakes

that into consideration we thought he would finish closer. He was well beaten.

"We've not lost faith in those horses and we think, along with Lujain, they're going to have a cracking season. But what emerged from last night is that we've got to be a little less ambitious. So Dubai Millennium will not be wheeled straight into the Dante Stakes. He'll start in a conditions race."

Mickey Mouse event. The handbrake was off. We were looking for that fifth gear and some of them just don't have it."

■ Olivier Doleuze yesterday received a 15-day ban from the Longchamp stewards for mistaking the winning post for the winning post and missing the ride on the 1,000 Guineas favourite, Moava in the Newmarket Classic on 2 May.

■ Blue Royal will run in the 1,000. The André Fabre-trained

lily's place had been uncertain after she won the Prix Imprudence by just a neck at Maisons-Laffitte on Friday.

1,000 Guineas: 1. Moava (14-1) (A. P. O'Brien), 2. Blue Royal (12-1) (A. P. O'Brien), 3. Blue Cloud (12-1) (A. P. O'Brien), 4. Blue Cloud (12-1) (A. P. O'Brien), 5. Blue Cloud (12-1) (A. P. O'Brien), 6. Blue Cloud (12-1) (A. P. O'Brien), 7. Blue Cloud (12-1) (A. P. O'Brien), 8. Blue Cloud (12-1) (A. P. O'Brien), 9. Blue Cloud (12-1) (A. P. O'Brien), 10. Blue Cloud (12-1) (A. P. O'Brien).

WINDSOR

2.15 Good Evens Above	4.15 Pippa
2.45 Naughty Crown	4.45 Mawkab
3.15 Wux Venture	5.15 Desert Warrior
3.45 Kingstree	

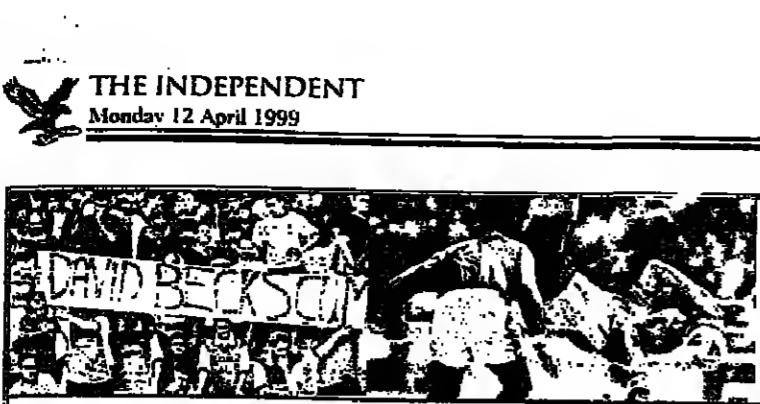
GOING: Firm (Good to Firm in places).
STALLS: Inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best of 5.65.
■ Figure-eight course level, with sharp turns, and long straights.
■ Course is 11 of 10 on A308 near junction of 6th Station at Windsor Circuit (service from London, Paddington) and Windsor Riverside (service from London, Waterloo).
■ River bus stops at course. ADMISSION: Club £4, Tattersalls £2, Silver Ring £4. CAR PARK: Club £2, remainder £1.

2.15 BANTRY MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £2,794
1. COMMONWOOD (Highland Partnership) 11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-122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6-2227-2228-2229-2230-2231-2232-2233-2234-2235-2236-2237-2238-2239-2240-2241-2242-2243-2244-2245-2246-2247-2248-2249-2250-2251-2252-2253-2254-2255-2256-2257-2258-2259-2260-2261-2262-2263-2264-2265-2266-2267-2268-2269-2270-2271-2272-2273-2274-2275-2276-2277-2278-2279-2280-2281-2282-2283-2284-2285-2286-2287-2288-2289-2290-2291-2292-2293-2294-2295-2296-2297-2298-2299-2300-2301-2302-2303-2304-2305-2306-2307-2308-2309-

Sharks suffer first bite

BY RICHARD TAYLOR

SHEFFIELD SHARKS have suffered their first defeat in the new season when they were beaten 1-0 by the home side at the stadium in the first of the eight games in the new season. The Sharks were beaten by the home side at the stadium in the first of the eight games in the new season. The Sharks were beaten by the home side at the stadium in the first of the eight games in the new season.



Hodgson is blamed for plight of Rovers

AS ROY HODGSON looks for a return to coaching on the Continent, it is clear that he has left behind a somewhat bitter legacy at Blackburn Rovers, where the blame for relegation - should it happen - would be laid by some critics at his door rather than Brian Kidd's.

The former Ewood Park manager has been accused of using the job for his own ends. The charges were levelled by Duncan McKenzie, the one-time Blackburn striker turned pundit, who is keen to see the club keep faith with Kidd, Hodgson's successor whatever their fate.

Parkin deserves a medal of honour

AMONG THE season's unsung achievements, it would be hard to find one to match Steve Parkin's feat in keeping Mansfield Town in the Third Division play-off zone.

The Stags missed a chance to advance their cause when they failed to see off 10-man Southend on Saturday, but Parkin's remarkable record is in no way diminished.

The Mansfield manager has had to contend with a transfer embargo lasting almost a year and a revolt by players over unpaid wages, not to mention the threat of the club being wound up over a debt of just £10,000.

Loans from the Professional Footballers' Association staved off the threat of a strike by the players but it took almost 12 months to repay them, during which time Parkin was forbidden to spend anything on new players. The winding-up order, relating to planning work on a £5m new stadium since placed on hold, was thwarted when the stadium development company picked up the tab.

If Mansfield make the play-offs, Parkin ought to be named manager of the season after the year he has had - but his predicament, amazingly, could yet become worse still if players exercise their rights under the Bosman ruling.

So hard-up are the East Midlands club they have been unable to offer new contracts to any of their 21 senior players - and 16 are on deals that expire this summer.

THAT WAS THE WEEKEND THAT WAS

EDITED BY JON CULLEY

FA CUP TEAM OF THE WEEK

- STEPHEN CARR** Tottenham Hotspur
- ALAN SHEARER** Newcastle United
- DENNIS BERGKAMP** Arsenal
- LUKE YOUNG** Tottenham Hotspur
- ROY KEANE** Manchester United
- JAP STAM** Manchester United
- SHAY GIVEN** Newcastle United
- DIETMAR HAMANN** Newcastle United
- TONY ADAMS** Arsenal
- ANDY GRIFFIN** Newcastle United

Manager of the week: John Gregory - rewarded after toughing out the most difficult three months of his Villa career. Performance of the week: Middlesbrough - who have quietly turned the Riverside Stadium into a fortress.

Missing... making it... and mistaken

NIGEL QUASHIE
NOTTINGHAM FOREST

A £2.5m signing from Queen's Park Rangers last August, the 20-year-old midfielder was the former Nottingham Forest manager Dave Bassett's costliest buy, but failed to make the impact anticipated and has drifted to the fringes of the team. His faltering form may not be entirely his fault, however - he was recently found to have been playing with a stress fracture in his left foot.

AARON HUGHES
NEWCASTLE UNITED

ALREADY a regular Northern Ireland international, the 19-year-old wing back, who made his senior debut in no less daunting surroundings than Barcelona's Nou Camp stadium, has had to bide his time waiting to impress Ruud Gullit, but made such a good impression in his first action for three months as Newcastle won 4-3 in a derby that the manager could hardly leave him out.

ROBBIE SAVAGE
LEICESTER CITY

LEICESTER'S WELSH midfielder has been getting some verbal stick lately - mainly from outraged Tottenham players. Whether "Why don't you get your hair cut, you said Andy Gibb lookalike?" was among the jibes thrown his way is not known. But it may have been...

ANDY GIBB



Replacements for Schmeichel line up

CONFUSION PERSISTS over who will be Manchester United's goalkeeper next season. The *Sunday Mirror* says Peter Schmeichel has rejected a £1m offer to stay at Old Trafford a further year and has already agreed to join Monaco as replacement for Milan-bound Fabien Barthez. The *People* reports Dutch sources saying that Edwin van der Sar is bound for United and quotes Italian rumours that Schmeichel is to join Fiorentina, with Francesco Toldo moving in the opposite direction. The *News of the World*, meanwhile, says United are planning a £5m summer raid for Coventry's Magnus Hedman.

The *People* also claims that United are set to bid £12m for Tottenham's Sol Campbell but that their supposed interest in Zinedine Zidane will be knocked on the head by his club, Juventus. The *News of the World* reckons United's Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is a £5m target for Torino.

The *Sunday Express* says George Graham is likely to show the Tottenham door to Les Ferdinand, Chris Armstrong and John Scales among others this summer and scours the German market for replacements after being delighted with Steffen Freund. However, the *News of the World* predicts Graham will land Wolves striker Rob Lee for £6m and says the Midlands club will also lose out-of-contract defender Dean Richards to Liverpool.

Both the *News of the World* and the *People* claim Leeds will step up their interest in Real Mallorca defender Marcelino - the one Dennis Wise appeared to bite - after being impressed with his performance against Chelsea.

The *Mirror* echoes the *News of the World's* suggestion that Newcastle are planning a £4.5m swoop for Auxerre's midfielder Bernard Diomede. The *Mirror* says Newcastle could also move for Chelsea's Dan Petrescu.

SEEN AND HEARD

BRISTLING BRUCE: "You can't tell me that the linesman knew Dwight Yorke was going to get the flick-on when he gave him offside." An indignant Sheffield United manager Steve Bruce, Sky's studio guest at yesterday's Villa Park semi-final, on the flag that may have denied his old teammates a trip to Wembley.

RUEFUL RON: "The most annoying thing was not the sending-off or anything to do with Pierre van Hooijdonk. It was watching one of our defenders go past two of my players and put the ball in the net." Forest manager Ron Atkinson, after Derby's late winner pushed the Nottingham side closer to the brink.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP																		
		Home							Away							5-game form		
		Pt	Pts	GD	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	
																	A Most recent on right	Upcoming matches
1	Man Utd	31	64	+37	14	4	1	38	16	7	6	2	31	16	WWWWWD	Saturday Sheffield Wed H; 25 Apr Leicester (A); 1 May Aston Villa (A); 5 May Liverpool (A)		
2	Arsenal	32	63	+30	11	5	0	27	4	6	7	3	16	9	WWWWDW	1-2 Arsenal (H); 2-0 Nottm Forest (A); 1 May Liverpool (A); 2 May Derby (H); 5 May Tottenham (A)		
3	Chelsea	31	62	+23	9	5	1	21	9	8	6	2	26	15	WWLWWW	Wednesday Middlesbrough (A); Sunday Leicester (H); 25 Apr Sheffield Wed (A); 1 May Everton (H)		
4	Leeds	31	57	+24	11	3	2	30	8	5	6	4	22	20	WWWWWW	1 Tonight Liverpool (H); Saturday Charlton (A); Apr Mon Utd (H); 1 May West Ham (A)		
5	Aston Villa	33	49	+5	9	3	5	28	24	4	7	5	16	15	LLDDW	Saturday Liverpool (H); 26 Apr Nottm Forest (H); 1 May Man Utd (H); 8 May Charlton (H)		
6	West Ham	33	48	-6	9	3	4	22	20	4	6	7	12	20	WWDL	Saturday Derby (H); 26 Apr Tottenham (A); 1 May Leeds (H); 8 May Everton (A)		
7	Derby	32	47	0	8	5	4	22	19	4	6	5	14	17	WWLLW	Saturday West Ham (A); 26 Apr Southampton (H); 2 May Everton (A); 8 May Leicester (A)		
8	Middlesbrough	32	46	+3	7	8	1	24	11	4	5	7	20	30	WWDDWW	Wednesday Charlton (H); Saturday Coventry (A); 26 Apr Arsenal (H); 1 May Newcastle (A)		
9	Liverpool	30	43	+16	8	4	2	36	18	4	3	9	21	23	DLWD	Tonight Leeds (A); Saturday Aston Villa (H); 21 Apr Leicester (H); 26 Apr Blackburn (A)		
10	Newcastle	32	42	-2	7	4	5	23	20	4	5	7	20	25	WLLWD	Saturday Everton (H); 21 Apr Sheffield Wed (A); Apr Middlesbrough (A); 1 May Middlesbrough (A)		
11	Middlesbrough	33	41	-13	7	6	4	21	18	3	5	8	16	32	LLDL	19 Apr Arsenal (H); 1 May Newcastle (H); 1 May Coventry (A); 8 May Tottenham (A)		
12	Tottenham	31	40	-2	7	6	3	24	19	2	7	6	11	18	WLWLD	Saturday Nottm Forest (A); 26 Apr Charlton (A); 26 Apr West Ham (H); 1 May Liverpool (A)		
13	Leicester	31	39	-7	5	6	5	21	23	4	6	5	11	16	WDWDD	Saturday Tottenham (H); 21 Apr Liverpool (H); 24 Apr Coventry (H); 1 May Southampton (A)		
14	Sheff Wed	32	38	+2	6	3	7	18	14	5	2	9	20	22	LLLL	Saturday Man Utd (H); 1 May Newcastle (H); 25 Apr Charlton (A); 1 May Nottm Forest (H)		
15	Coventry	33	37	-11	7	5	4	21	16	3	2	12	13	29	DLWFL	Saturday Middlesbrough (H); 24 Apr Leicester (H); May Middlesbrough (H); 8 May Derby (A)		
16	Everton	33	34	-12	4	8	5	12	11	4	2	10	16	29	LLLL	Saturday Newcastle (H); 24 Apr Charlton (H); 1 May Charlton (H); 8 May West Ham (A)		
17	Charlton	32	31	-9	4	5	6	18	14	3	5	9	16	29	LDLWL	Saturday Tottenham (H); 26 Apr Tottenham (H); 26 Apr Bolton (H); 1 May Blackburn (A)		
18	Blackburn	32	31	-11	6	4	6	19	19	1	6	9	13	24	LDWDL	Saturday Southampton (A); 26 Apr Liverpool (H); 1 May Charlton (H); 8 May Tottenham (A)		
19	Southampton	33	30	-32	7	3	6	22	22	1	3	13	6	38	LWL	Saturday Blackburn (H); 26 Apr Derby (H); 1 May Charlton (H); 8 May Middlesbrough (A)		
20	Nottm Forest	33	21	-35	1	7	8	15	30	3	2	12	15	35	WLLDL	Saturday Tottenham (H); 26 Apr Aston Villa (A); 1 May Sheffield Wed (H); 8 May Blackburn (A)		

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION																	
Home										Away					5-game form		
	Pt	Pts	GS	W	D	L	F	A		W	D	L	F	A		Most recent on right	Upcoming matches
1	Sunderland	41	92	80	18	2	1	48	9	9	9	2	32	15	WWWWDW	Tonorrow Barn (P); Friday Barnsley (P); 24 Apr Sheff Utd (P); 1 May Stockport (A)	
2	Ipswich	41	80	63	14	1	5	31	12	10	7	4	32	14	WWWWD	Saturday Bolton (P); 24 Apr Crewe (P); 1 May Barnsley (A); 9 May Sheff Utd (P)	
3	Bradford	41	79	73	15	3	3	46	17	9	4	7	27	23	WLWWW	Tonorrow Port Vale (A); Saturday Huddersfield (P); 24 Apr Grimsby (P); 1 May Sheff Utd (P)	
4	Birmingham	41	72	61	10	7	3	30	14	10	5	6	31	19	WDDLW	Saturday Wolves (P); 20 Apr CPR (P); 24 Apr Bristol C (P); 1 May Ipswich (P)	
5	Wolves	41	67	59	11	9	1	34	15	7	4	9	25	23	WWWDD	Saturday Birmingham (P); 25 Apr West Brom (P); 30 Apr Bolton (P); 9 May Bradford (P)	
6	Bolton	40	65	69	11	5	4	40	24	6	9	5	29	30	WLDDL	Tonorrow Derby C (P); Saturday Ipswich (P); 20 Apr Norwich (P); 24 Apr Barnsley (A)	
7	Walsley	41	64	57	10	8	3	27	18	7	5	8	30	34	DDWWW	Saturday Crewe (P); 24 Apr C Palace (P); 1 May Barnsley (P); 9 May Grimsby (P)	
8	Sheff Utd	41	57	63	10	6	5	37	28	5	6	9	26	32	WLLDL	Saturday CPR (P); 20 Apr Grimsby (A); 24 Apr Barnsley (P); 1 May Huddersfield C (P)	
9	C Palace	42	57	55	11	3	1	41	23	3	6	12	14	37	WWWDD	Saturday Swindon (P); 24 Apr Walsley (P); 1 May Huddersfield (P); 9 May CPR (P)	
10	Huddersfield	42	56	57	11	8	2	38	22	3	6	12	19	44	DDDL	Saturday Bradford (A); 24 Apr Barnsley (P); 1 May C Palace (P); 9 May Swindon (P)	
11	Norwich	41	54	52	6	10	4	28	23	7	5	9	24	30	DDLWD	Saturday Torquay (P); 20 Apr Bolton (P); 24 Apr Derby (P); 1 May Swindon (P)	
12	West Brom	41	53	63	11	2	7	39	30	4	6	11	24	39	LLLL	Tonorrow Swindon (P); Saturday Portsmouth (P); 24 Apr Palace (A); 1 May Barnsley (P)	
13	Grimsby	39	43	37	9	4	5	22	16	6	4	11	15	31	WLWL	Tonorrow CPR (P); Saturday Barn (P); 20 Apr Sheff Utd (P); 24 Apr Swindon (P)	
14	Barnsley	42	52	52	7	8	6	32	25	5	8	8	20	25	WWL	Friday Huddersfield (P); 24 Apr Huddersfield (P); 1 May Walsley (P); 9 May Swindon (P)	
15	Stockport	41	52	46	7	8	6	22	18	5	8	7	24	30	DDWWW	Saturday Bristol C (P); 24 Apr Portsmouth (P); 1 May Sunderland (P); 9 May Bolton (P)	
16	Tranmere	42	51	57	7	6	8	33	28	4	12	5	24	28	DWLDD	Saturday Norwich (P); 24 Apr Port Vale (P); 1 May Grimsby (P); 9 May West Brom (P)	
17	OPR	40	44	45	8	7	6	27	19	3	4	12	18	33	LWLWL	Tonorrow Grimsby (P); Saturday Sheff Utd (P); 20 Apr Birmingham (P); 24 Apr Bolton (P)	
18	Swindon	41	43	53	6	8	7	37	41	5	2	13	16	34	LLLL	Tonorrow West Brom (A); Saturday C Palace (P); 24 Apr Grimsby (P); 1 May Norwich (P)	
19	Portsmouth	42	43	51	9	5	7	31	23	1	8	12	20	42	DLLLL	Saturday West Brom (A); 24 Apr Stockport (P); 1 May Crewe (P); 9 May Bolton (P)	
20	Oxford	42	40	41	6	8	7	24	26	3	5	13	17	40	LWDDL	Saturday Port Vale (A); 24 Apr Norwich (P); 1 May Bradford (P); 9 May Stockport (P)	
21	Bury	41	40	30	7	7	6	19	21	1	9	11	11	32	DDDLW	Tonorrow Sunderland (P); Saturday Grimsby (P); 23 Apr Bolton (P); 1 May West Brom (P)	
22	Port Vale	40	39	39	8	2	9	17	25	3	4	14	22	45	LLW	Tonorrow Bradford (A); Sunday Oxford (P); 24 Apr Tranmere (P); 1 May CPR (P)	
23	Bristol C	40	38	52	6	8	7	33	34	2	6	11	19	37	LLWWW	Tonorrow Bolton (P); Saturday Stockport (P); 24 Apr Birmingham (P); 1 May Sheff Utd (P)	
24	Crewe	41	38	48	5	6	9	23	33	4	5	12	25	42	LLW	Saturday Walsley (P); 24 Apr Ipswich (A); 1 May Portsmouth (P); 9 May Huddersfield (P)	

FOOTBALL RESULTS

FA CUP SEMI-FINALS

Yesterday		
Man Utd	3-0	Arsenal
39.217		
<i>(after extra time; at Villa Park, Birmingham, Replay Wednesday 14 10.15, same venue)</i>		
Newcastle	0-0	Tottenham
39.217		
<i>(after extra time; at Old Trafford, Manchester)</i>		

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Yesterday		
Everton	1-0	Coventry
39.217		
Cam Utd	1-0	Scarbrough
39.217		
Carlisle	1-0	Peterborough
39.217		
Derby	0-0	Sheff Wed
39.217		
Leeds	1-0	Sheff Wed
39.217		
Sheff Wed	0-0	Sheff Wed
39.217		

FIRST DIVISION

Yesterday		
Norwich	0-0	Ipswich
19.511		
<i>Saturday</i>		
Aston Villa	3-0	Southampton
19.511		
Derby	1-0	Nottn Forest
19.511		
Leeds	0-0	West Ham
19.511		
Sheff Wed	2-0	Charlton
19.511		

FIRST DIVISION

Yesterday		
Norwich	0-0	Ipswich
19.511		
<i>Saturday</i>		
Man Utd	1-0	Tranmere
19.511		
Derby	2-0	Persmouth
19.511		
Sheff Wed	4-0	Grimsey
19.511		
Crewe	0-0	Port Vale
19.511		
Sheff Wed	0-0	Bury
19.511		
QPR	0-0	West Brom
19.511		
Sheff Wed	1-0	Sheff Wed
19.511		
Sheff Wed	2-0	Huddersfield
19.511		
Sheff Wed	0-0	Birmingham
19.511		
Sheff Wed	2-0	Bolton
19.511		
Sheff Wed	0-0	Crystal Pal
19.511		

SECOND DIVISION

Yesterday		
Blackpool	2-0	Reading
39.217		
Blackpool	1-0	Reading
39.217		
Fulham	2-0	Wigan
39.217		
Blackpool	3-0	Preston
39.217		
Man City	4-0	Lincoln
39.217		
Northampton	1-0	Luton
39.217		
Sheff Wed	2-0	Sheff Wed
39.217		
Dixhall	1-0	Burnley
39.217		
Stoke	1-0	Bristol Rovers
39.217		
Sheff Wed	0-0	Wycombe
39.217		
York	2-0	Millwall
39.217		

York: Grilling

P W D L F A Pts		
Fulham	39.28	6 5 6 26 26
Walsal	39.22	8 5 24 1 74
Sheff Wed	40.10	10 7 9 40 73
Man City	40.10	15 7 58 72
Gillingham	40.18	14 6 55 31
Sheff Wed	40.10	10 10 38 48
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SPORT

Hamed survives the pain

BOXING

BY GLYN LEACH

IF NASEEM HAMED is out in decline as a fighter, then the 25-year-old World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion is certainly in a slump. Worse still, his career is threatened by a hand injury that has hampered his performance for the second fight in succession.

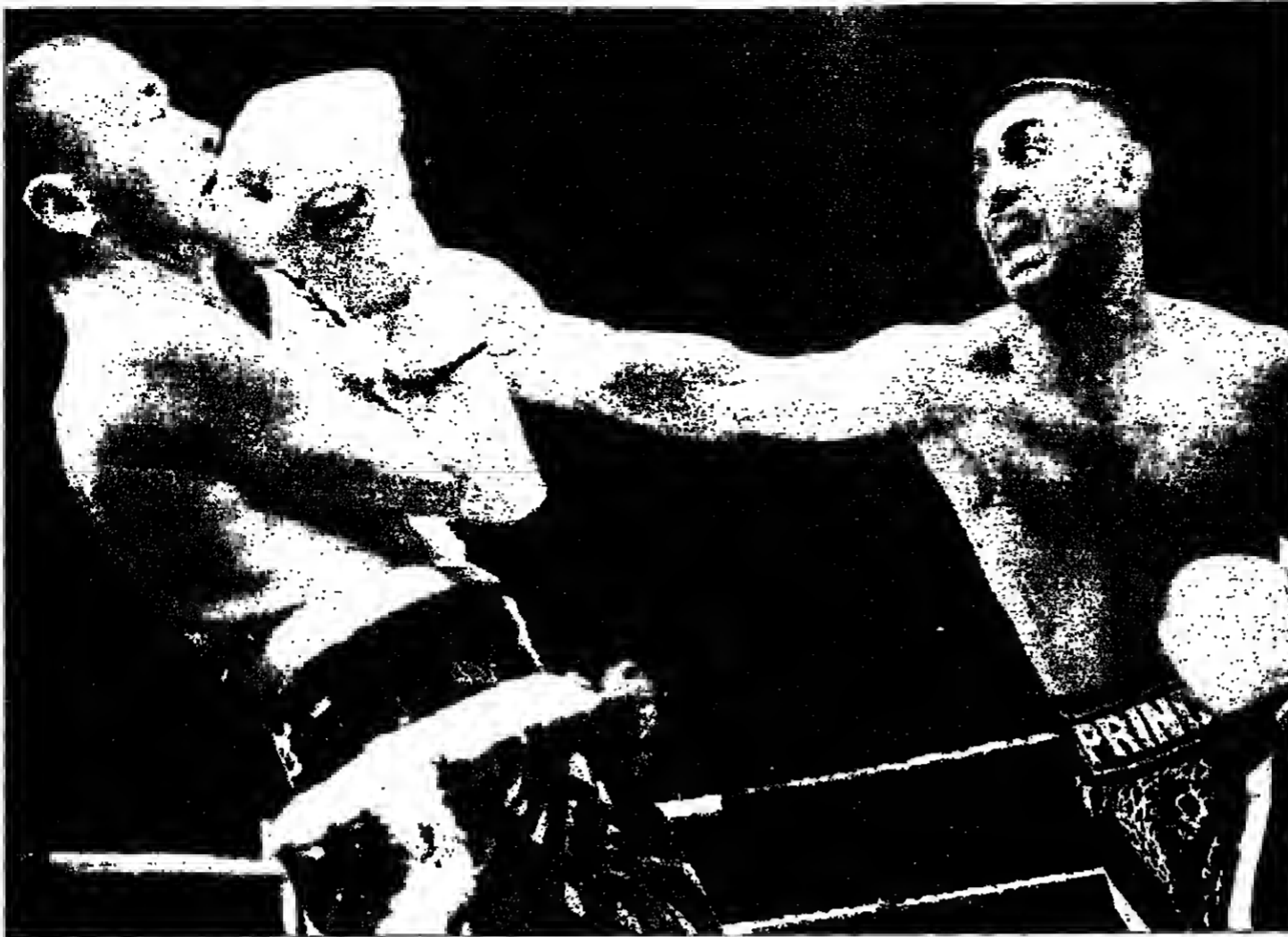
Last Halloween in Atlantic City, 'Prince' Hamed was able to coast through 12 dull but safe rounds against Wayne McCullough after hurting his left hand - traditionally the power purveyor of a southpaw - early in the fight. In Manchester last weekend, the injury showed itself to be a serious long-term threat.

Hamed seemed in control in the early stages of his defence against Scarborough's Paul Ingle at the MEN Arena in Manchester on Saturday. Ingle, an unbeaten European and Commonwealth champion, was floored in the first and sixth rounds. But then, says Hamed, his hand began hurting and his effectiveness was reduced to the point where Ingle took control and Hamed, with no meaningful deferent to ward off his hyperactive challenger, had to save himself with a knock-out punch - delivered by the ailing hand - in the 11th round.

"Around the sixth my left hand really began to hurt," said the champion. "I just wanted to throw it, but I couldn't. This is doing my head in. I've got to get it sorted out."

Hand injuries are the bane of big punchers and Hamed proved, if nothing else, that he still belongs in that category. This was his 29th stoppage win in 32 unbeaten fights. But it is impossible to ignore the flaws that have developed in this prodigiously talented Yorkshireman who has promised, verbally and in reality, to deliver so much. Without wishing to denigrate the challenger, future boxing legends should not have life and death struggles with the likes of Ingle.

But the aura of Hamed the all-conquering destroyer is nearly gone. Ingle baited him at the end of rounds, goading the goader. And his psychological warfare had begun earlier in the evening, when Ingle va-



Naseem Hamed leads with the right on the way to retaining his world title against Paul Ingle in Manchester on Saturday. Allsport

cated the ring, as he had promised he would if Hamed's entrance lasted longer than six minutes. Which, of course, it did. Cadillac, fireworks display and all, with a hit of rapping thrown in for good measure. It was Hamed whose head was toyed with on this occasion.

Hamed's state of mind has been a concern for some time. His estranged trainer Brendan Ingle, no relation to Paul, has claimed that the featherweight (championship limit nine stone) blows up to around 11 stone between fights, indicating a lack of dedication. Ingle and Hamed have conducted a war of words

through the media, but one can be sure that such criticisms from the man who taught him to box as a child will have hurt Hamed.

To his credit, the champion has trained hard for his last two contests and has made the weight with ease. Perhaps too much so, however. There is a distinct possibility that Hamed has overtrained, resulting in two of the least satisfying performances of his career.

His American paymasters, the Home Box Office subscription TV network, claim they are unworried by the poor performances, however. "Whatever you say about him,

he's still the biggest one-punch hitter in the sport, and that makes for exciting television," said the HBO executive Lou DiBella.

Unwittingly, Oscar Suarez, the little-known Puerto Rican who has replaced Brendan Ingle, may have added to the demise.

Suarez apparently is a believer in a harsh fitness regime which may be too much for Hamed to take after years without so much as a training run. Suarez at least improved the Prince's shocking sense of balance, but it would be unrealistic to judge him on the evidence of one fight.

Examining Hamed's career how-

ever, it is difficult not to believe that he is steadily, perhaps irretrievably, going downhill, which is where the fortysomething Detroit legend Thomas 'Hit Man' Hearns has been for some time. Hearns is the only fighter to win world titles in six weight categories and he added another belt on the show's undercard, the IBO cruiserweight title. But his 12-rounder with the unambitious American, Nate Miller, both left him dissatisfied and all but emptied the arena. He now knows that his dream of a shot at the light-heavyweight champion Roy Jones and then retirement is highly unrealistic.

ACTION REPLAY

Mansell on rampage
denied by a whisker

The Spanish Grand Prix at Jerez on 13 April, 1998, made history when it was won by one of the shortest distances recorded in the sport of Grand Prix racing. This is how the Daily Express reported it.

SUNDAY
13
APRIL
1998

NIGEL MANSSELL failed by just 0.014 of a second to win a thrilling Spanish Grand Prix from Ayrton Senna at the new Jerez de la Frontera track yesterday.

Tyre trouble forced Mansell into the pits just 10 laps from home, but he came out with a new lease of life, passing Alain Prost and setting a lap record, only for the race to finish just a few metres too soon.

As the two men joked afterwards, Mansell said: "It was a hell of a fight. I thought I had done it. It was a debate whether to go in to the pits or carry on but the team called me in and we had an excellent stop."

"If there had been another 20 metres I would have caught him, but that's the way it goes."

Brazilian Senna's winning margin was as close as Peter Gethin's at Monza in 1971, when he beat Ronnie Peterson, and denied Williams their fifth success in a row.

Senna started from pole position and led until Mansell caught him on lap 40. But then the Briton was forced into the pit-stop.

Third and fourth were the

BY STUART SYKES

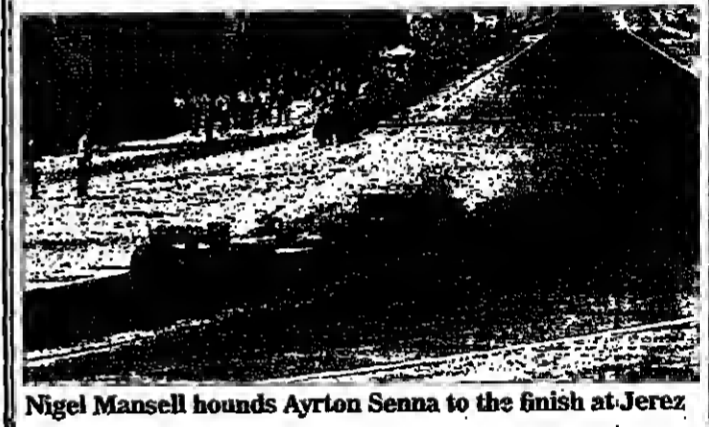
Marlboro McLaren's Prost and Keke Rosberg, with the Benetton of Teo Fagi and Gerhard Berger rounding off the top six.

Martin Brundle, pulling out a fine drive in the spare Data General Tyrrell after emerging unscathed from a high-speed practice crash in his new car, looked good before engine failure forced him out 31 laps from home.

Johnny Dumfries in the second Lotus, carried on the fight, reaching fifth place before coming to grief with a broken drive shaft, but Jonathan Palmer lasted only two corners before going off.

The win put Senna well ahead in the 1998 world championship with 15 points from two races. His Brazilian rival, Nelson Piquet, who had engine failure here in the other Williams, when third after 39 laps, is second with nine points.

Final positions: 1 A Senna (McLaren), 2 A Prost (McLaren), 3 A Rosberg (Benetton), 4 K Rosberg (Benetton), 5 T Fagi (Benetton), 6 G Berger (Aut, Benetton).



Nigel Mansell hounds Ayrton Senna to the finish at Jerez.

THE INDEPENDENT Champagne Breaks

The Independent/Independent on Sunday have joined forces with SeaFrance European Life to offer you excellent discounts on holidays to Champagne. From just £49 per person you can take a break in the heart of the Champagne region, inclusive of return ferry crossing, two nights' accommodation and a complimentary bottle of champagne on your arrival.

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PARTICIPATING HOTELS

Epernay, Le Thibault IV ★★

Situated 20km south of Epernay on the Champagne Route in the heart of the Champagne region, Le Thibault offers a good standard of accommodation, with reasonably sized rooms and en suite bathrooms. The hotel's restaurant is well known across the Champagne area, serving both gastronomic menus and champagne dinners. The hotel can arrange a free visit to local wine cellars and, although this does not include wine-tasting, we're sure that it will be an insight into the Champagne world!



Epernay, Hostellerie de la Reine Blanche ★★

The village of Vertus lies 20km south of Epernay on the Champagne Route in the heart of the Champagne region. The charm and warmth offered by the Hostellerie de la Reine Blanche is quite typical of the hotels in this region. The hotel has a swimming-pool, sauna and fitness room and the bedrooms are large and sumptuously decorated, with en suite bathrooms. The Hostellerie also boasts wine-cellar holding vintage dating back to 1929 to accompany its restaurant's fine gastronomic cuisine.



Troyes, Forêt d'Orient ★★

Beautiful natural setting, in the heart of the Champagne region, between two lakes for water sports and on an 18-hole golf course, 15km from medieval Troyes and 100km from the Epernay champagne cellars. Relax around the heated pool, enjoy a round of golf or archery (both playable locally), or exercise in the free fitness room. The generous-sized rooms offer satellite TV, telephone and lovely bathrooms with separate w.c. The restaurant has a poolside terrace offering good-value menus. Family rooms available.



Reims, L'Assiette Champenoise ★★

Located just 2km from the centre of Reims, with its magnificent Gothic cathedral and famous champagne cellars. Set in large grounds, this exquisite hotel offers excellent facilities and a high level of comfort in relaxing surroundings. In addition to the heated indoor swimming-pool, guests have free use of the sauna. A gastronomic experience at the popular restaurant is certainly not to be missed. All bedrooms have satellite TV and mini-bar. Buffet breakfast and private outdoor parking.



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	2 nts	2 nts	2 nts	2 nts
Epernay Le Thibault IV	49	59	69	59
Troyes Forêt d'Orient	69	79	89	79
Epernay La Reine Blanche	79	89	99	89
Reims Assiette Champenoise	89	99	109	99

BASED ON 2 IN A CAR - OCCUPYING 1 ROOM

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	2 nts	2 nts	2 nts	2 nts
Epernay Le Thibault IV	59	69	79	69
Troyes Forêt d'Orient	79	89	99	89
Epernay La Reine Blanche	89	99	109	99
Reims Assiette Champenoise	99	109	119	109

All prices shown are per person and in pounds sterling

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MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY

I'm a writer, not a fighter

Vikram Seth protests that the idea of a feud with Salman Rushdie is ridiculous. But after the superlatives which greeted his doorstopper-blockbuster, *A Suitable Boy*, many are eager to make his new novel another headline-grabbing sensation



Tom Craig

I'm on the top of the 94 London bus with Vikram Seth, author of *A Suitable Boy*, reliving whole sections of his new novel *An Equal Music*, an elegant tale of string quartets, Rochdale and lost love. He's pointing out places and things as we coast the northern border of Hyde Park. "There's the statue of the bear, can you see it?" he says excitedly, gesturing at the drinking fountain near the water gardens of the park. I find myself nodding but I'm a little concerned. A key section of the narrative takes place on this very bus route. When we reach Selfridges, how will he respond? Will he glimpse his soulmate, as the main character does, whizzing past on the 94 going in the other direction?

Surprising - I suppose - to find an author usually pigeonholed as "exotic" writing a novel partly set in Rochdale; you suspect a certain bloody-mindedness on his part, a desire to confound expectations, especially noticeable now that he's going up against Salman Rushdie's latest in a battle of the subcontinental titans.

But let's go back a bit, to 1993, when Vikram Seth woke one morning to find himself famous. Before *A Suitable Boy* he'd been little more than an impecunious poet with two economics degrees from Oxford and Stanford in his knapsack. A perennial student, he'd spent two years in deepest China researching "the economic demography of seven villages" before returning to Stamford to chuck in the PhD he was writing. He'd then eccentrically written a verse novel about San Francisco, *The Golden Gate*, which had a genuine cult following, but otherwise notched up pretty indifferent sales.

The follow-up was that rare rarity: a literary best-seller. *A Suitable Boy* became a phenomenon, a word-of-mouth hit, from the moment its vast, 1,349-page bulk slammed on to creaking bookshop shelves. Many critics derided its simple, old-fashioned family drama, but its omission from the Booker's shortlist drew some of the most vituperative exchanges in the prize's history. The public loved it to death, this doorstopping epic of post-colonial Indian provincial life without parallel in modern times. People were overwhelmed by its size, if nothing else - it's the longest novel ever published. It's gone on to sell three-quarters of a million copies.

Six years on and he has a new novel in the shops, a slim chamber-work in comparison to the complex orchestrations of *A Suitable Boy*. It's basically a first-person narrative about a Bayswater violin-player, Michael Holmes, who is having an early mid-life crisis, precipitated by a girlfriend whom he abandoned in the past and who has mysteriously reappeared.

Seth hadn't been bothered by the fact that Salman Rushdie has a "rival" novel out in the same week until journalists kept needling him about it. Now he's fretting over comparisons. Not since the glory days of the *Blur*/Oasis stand-off have there been such facings-down, such vociferous camps, such lines in the sand. U2's Bono, always oddly vulnerable to the schmoozing of authors, has ensured that the rock'n'roll dimension has legs by setting a song lyric from Rushdie's novel for the latest U2 album. While Rushdie goes "Achtung Balth!" and gets jiggy, Bollywood-style, Vikram Seth by contrast maintains a shocked and dignified silence.

"One article says we're both polite about each other, and that's a dead giveaway," says Seth. Now we're in a hotel room, just before that 94 bus ride. He's positioned himself on an armchair, with his legs tucked up beneath him, after casting about for additional cushions with the distracted, raised-chin air of an Ottoman pasha. "It's ridiculous," he continues, genuinely pained by what he calls "lazy editors" stoking up an imaginary feud. "We're characterised as Tweedledee this and Tweedledum that, when he's Tweedledum and I'm the Monstrous Crow." He says this with a tinkling, musical laugh. "We don't resemble each other at all."

However, there's nothing remotely monstrous about 47-year-old Seth. People always mention how small he is, and what nice brown eyes he has, and the way everything about his manner seems rather refined. You could never imagine him capable of an ugly word; you would feel disgusting even to mention an ugly thing in his presence. It would be the action of a cad and a bounder to press him on the question of his private life (not that there's a hint of ugliness there - on the contrary, he lives with his dotting parents in Delhi), which anyway he refuses to talk about.

He tends to work in bed on a lap-top "with the duvet a plain colour so as not to distract me," he observes with further pasha-like particularity. Writing *A Suitable Boy* in longhand resulted in his hand seizing up in a claw shape. He panicked and doctors were called; he now uses a keyboard rather than a fountain pen. Perhaps his claw was also exacerbated by his alarming habit of tearing books to pieces so that he can read them on the move; Shakespeare is shredded so he can read the Bard "like a newspaper".

I can't help noticing that he has something scrawled on the palm of his hand, and I ask what it is. It's not that Madonna Hindi thing, is it? Those Sanskrit signs Madge has taken to drawing on her hands? Are we back on Salman Rushdie again? Seth peers owlishly at his smudged palm. "No, no," he announces at last. "Verdi. I think, but why Verdi? Oh, it's Vicks, because I have a blocked nose."

Verdi is no doubt too florid for his musical tastes, which tend towards the simple expression of deep emotion. He once trained to play the Indian flute, but "I'm not even a medium-level amateur," he tells me. While trying to "distract" himself from writing, he learnt to sing Schubert lieder, but does not think to let me hear his voice until, by complete chance, I mention the vivacious 1963 musical *Les Parapluies de Cherbourg*. Jacques Demy's light-as-a-feather

scene where the two lovers, many years on, meet briefly and by accident. It's a bit like the one in his new novel.

Another exertion he's fond of, and which pops up in the novel, is swimming in the Serpentine. In the winter. Hang on, isn't that a bit cold? "Yes, I'm part of the club allowed to swim there." They have to sign health waivers with the local council before dipping a toe in those goose-turded waters. "I tend to go on a Saturday and we do handicap races and swim around the buoy," he tells me. He pronounces buoy "boo-wee", like an American. Why does he do that? He flushes a little. "After *Suitable Boy*, it's difficult to say the word," he says, a little mysteriously.

He's used to the fame now, but even with the money ("I made a pot of money"), years of penny-pinching has left its mark. He finds it difficult to encompass the extravagance of - say - taking a taxi anywhere. And so this is how it is when the interview is over, and we end up on the 94 bus together on the top deck, and a magical mystery tour of *An Equal Music* begins. We glimpse the Round Pond between the trees, the bear fountain, and we are nearly at the doors of Selfridges and the "lapis-robed statue" that looks down as our hero, Michael, sees a fugitive face, a great lost love from 10 years earlier in another 94 bus.

But we pass the angel of Selfridges in silence, and at length Seth gets off the bus at Bond Street. "What is your favourite Tintin book?" he has been badgering me. "When I was 10 I read *The Secret of the Unicorn*," he confesses. "But it ended before the treasure was found, and I spent all year in a state of tension. Then I read the conclusion of the story in *Red Rackham's Treasure* when I was 11, and I will never forget that feeling, that long, terrible period of unknowing, followed by resolution."

Like all Seth's slightly fey anecdotes, it has an undertow of hardbitten worldliness. Don't be deceived. As I see him dart through the commonplace crowds of Oxford Street, I come to the inescapable conclusion that he is no fop, no fool, and no tame exotic either. No mere sprig of the literary world could have managed the sheer heft of *A Suitable Boy*, however many musicals make him cry. And that will still be true long after the Rushdie stand-off has been forgotten, and the fickle rock'n'roll circus has moved on.

Deborah Ross will be back next week

BY ROGER CLARKE

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Kosova children appeal to Independent readers

Thousands of Kosovar refugee children now face death from hunger, cold and disease. Most are in deep shock. Many have witnessed their parents and relatives killed in the awful atrocities from which they fled. Albania, the poorest country in Europe, cannot support this massive influx of refugees.

Your action will save children who have lost everything

The European Children's Trust needs your swift response to expand our emergency centre in northern Albania to help thousands of refugees. Our team has been working with displaced Kosovar families since this tragedy began. We are ready to provide food, medical aid and clothing to the confused and frightened children who arrive daily. These are children and families whose homes have been lost, perhaps forever. Special help is needed for the traumatised children who have witnessed terrible crimes, and must now start to live a normal life.

£30 could buy emergency medicine and food for 5 Kosovar refugee children for a week.

Kosovo Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KE3359, 64a Queen Street, London, EC4B 4AB.

Please send what you can to save the displaced Kosovar children. Call 0800 056 3686 now or cut the coupon below.

I enclose ☐ £30 ☐ my choice £_____ to save Kosovar children. (Cheques to The European Children's Trust please).

Or debit my Access/Visa/CAP card:

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Please return to: Don McCreedy, (112), Kosovo Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KE3359, 64a Queen Street, London, EC4B 4AB. Or call 0800 056 3686 NOW.

Please act NOW - your gift will save lives

Token
4
THE INDEPENDENT

Rich man's war

Sir: M Owen (letter, 8 April) suggests that many opponents of Nato's actions against Yugoslavia are of the "anti-American left" who are still "locked into Cold War attitudes". If "the Cold War is over", should not someone tell the Americans? We are witnessing a mopping-up operation in that unfinished war.

How else do we explain the unwillingness of the US to prevent or punish atrocities committed by Turkey against the Kurds and by Indonesia against the East Timorese? How do these states escape the wrath of the US, while Iraq and Yugoslavia suffer devastation? Is it simply coincidence that the states escaping Nato bombardment are those already safely locked into the global free market economy while Iraq and Yugoslavia are unwilling to open their economies to US or IMF priorities?

We are now being psychologically prepared for the aerial destruction of Yugoslavia's infrastructure, or a massive ground war, or both. In Iraq the destruction of infrastructure such as water and fuel supplies, and the impact of sanctions, are killing five thousand children each month.

The war is avoidable. The billions of pounds it would cost should be spent on emergency relief, homes, new towns and hospitals for the refugees and impoverished populations of the Balkans. That would reduce the economic pressures which have fuelled the crisis; historic hatred was the excuse for and manifestation of the conflict, not its cause.

But is global capital willing to be the servant of an effort to satisfy such human needs, or must it follow the flag, gunboat and free market ideology which Nato still clearly serves by its selective exercise of power?

TREVOR PHILLIPS
Norwich

Sir: In March, after months of negotiations and a whole series of "last chances", in the light of broken agreements and mounting evidence of Serb atrocities in Kosovo, the democratically elected leaders of 19 Nato countries, together with their military advisers and with all the facts at their disposal, decided belatedly and with obvious reluctance to take military action against Serbia.

These leaders, for all their faults, are not gung-ho tyrants looking for any excuse to attack a small nation, but responsible politicians who preside over countries which are, in the main, models of free speech and respect for human rights. At the time their decision was supported, with reservations, by the majority of their citizens. As more of the facts have emerged about Serbian atrocities in Kosovo, this support has considerably strengthened, despite probing and questioning of Nato's position by the media.

On 9 April you published a letter by Dr Richard Keeble and others claiming that Britain's intervention was utterly irresponsible and that if the people had been told the facts about the war they would never have supported it. Dr Keeble is, of course, entitled both to hold these opinions and to have them published in a national newspaper; something he would find rather more difficult in Serbia. His arrogance, however, in claiming to have greater insight than all 19 Nato governments and suggesting that his fellow citizens don't have the same ability as he has to make up their own minds is breathtaking.

Like Richard Keeble, the majority of the citizens of the West have made up their own minds. Fortunately for the Kosovans, they have come to a different conclusion. STUART RUSSEL
Cirencester, Gloucestershire

Sir: Sometimes I can hardly believe what I am hearing: the most sophisticated technology in the world but somehow it can't work if there are a few clouds or ground mist - sounds like leaves on the track or the wrong kind of snow!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Billingsgate No 1: By Sam London's fish market is in full swing. It moved to Docklands from its ancient location in the City in the 1980s. Kalpesh Lathigra

Now we are told that Kosovo is inaccessible to troops because there are no proper roads - presumably modern tanks only work on motorways.

Our forefathers would be ashamed of us; Omdurman was a remote inaccessible place, as were Sebastopol and Missolonghi, but they got there and were not afraid to put their lives on the line for a cause (which is actually what armies are for). DOMINIC KIRKHAM
Manchester

Sir: Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, staring hard at camera, warned the country on Saturday that a ground offensive against Yugoslavia would require months of preparation (a curious description of the Rapid Reaction Force for which we have paid our taxes) and would result in heavy casualties on both sides. He clearly expects this to still the clamour for such an offensive.

Our governments past and present (Winston Churchill excepted) seem to have a predilection for underestimating the toughness of those they rule. During the Second World War the Ministry of Information was on tenterhooks lest the nerve of the people crack under heavy Nazi aerial bombardment. Subsequent inquiry has shown that the only sound of knees knocking together came from within the ministry itself. Dr LESLIE PALMER
Bath

Sir: The problem with discussing the legality of Nato's campaign against Serbia is that Nato wants to be both arbiter and enforcer.

This is a problem that Nato shares with the UN. Since only powerful countries have the resources to act as enforcers and some of these countries have UN vetoes, international law is controlled by the whim of a few countries. International law is really a new form of colonial imperialism. PAUL EDWARDS
London EC1

Adoption obstacles

Sir: In your article "Councils named in adoption crisis" (7 April) you suggest that low rates of adoption are due to social workers and local authorities having an "anti-adoption" culture.

However, many children are only "looked after" for a short period before returning to their families. Forty-three percent of children leaving care have been looked after for less than eight weeks.

Many children are already in suitable placements such as in permanent foster homes, specialist schools, supported lodgings or with their parents or other relatives and adoption is therefore not necessary. Most children in care (80 per cent) are over the age of five. Many of these will have significant personal difficulties such as emotional and behavioural problems. Some will have links with, and loyalties towards, birth relatives that mean they would not want to be adopted. All figures from the Department of Health Statistical Bulletin, 1998.

There is of course a group of children (a small proportion of the 51,000) who are in long-stay care, do not have a permanent placement and have no prospect of return home. Probably the most important influence on why such children are not being adopted is that there is a great mismatch

between the needs of these children (many of whom are difficult to parent) and the kind of children that most adopters seek to parent (very young children without problems). Finding and supporting new parents is possible but requires time, money and specialist skills.

Professor JUNE THORBURN
BETH NEIL
Centre for Research on the Child and Family
University of East Anglia
Norwich

Sir: The low use of adoption by some local authorities for children in care is, of course, a cause for concern. The British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering welcomed the Quality Protection initiative, launched last September, which will make new money available to local authorities. This money is allocated against local targets which are to include increases in the number of children being adopted. It is, therefore, surely premature for Julian Brazier to ask the Government to "punish" local authorities for past performance when the new thrust to increase adoption, which has been welcomed by social workers, has only just begun.

It has never been the case that large numbers of children in care have been adopted by new families. The 21,000 children per year adopted in the 1970s

consisted almost entirely of adoptions of children by their step-parents (at least half the total) and infants relinquished for adoption by single birth mothers. Both these forms of adoption have dropped drastically for reasons relating to different custody arrangements for step-parents and societal changes in attitude to single mothers.

FELICITY COLLIER
Director
British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering
London SE1

Sir: Your article, "Councils named in adoption crisis" listed 10 councils said to be the "worst authorities" in terms of children placed for adoption in 1997. I write as the independent chair of the adoption panel in reputedly the second worst authority, the London Borough of Hackney.

I know that the quoted figure of three adoptions is wholly inaccurate. In fact, Hackney averages about 50 children per year placed in permanent family placements, split almost equally between long-term fostering and adoption.

I am therefore cautious in accepting the figures quoted for the other nine authorities and even more so in believing that the "anti-adoption" culture that you assert is widespread is even existent among social workers. It would be

interesting to know something of the research methodology employed by the House of Commons officials, if their work could be dignified by that term.

Panaceas can seem superficially attractive but are in fact fatally flawed responses to complex situations, and adoption is no panacea. Yet for a minority of those children who are unable to live with their birth families it can be a wonderfully positive opportunity to rebuild a young life previously shattered by neglect or abuse. HELEN MARTYN
London NW5

Banana battle

Sir: You are wrong to suggest that the European Union should admit defeat in the banana war leading article, 8 April.

This is certainly not the first time in recent history that "free trade" rules have been used to undermine broadly beneficial activities in favour of the financial interests of large companies.

In 1998 the Canadian government was obliged, under North American free trade rules, to reverse a ban on a toxic petrol additive and two Mexican local authorities were sued for preventing US companies from establishing toxic-waste dumps in their jurisdictions.

Nor, if we give up on the small Caribbean banana farmers, will it be the last time that trade rules are used in this way. One GM company admits to a target which will make the whole of the US soy crop genetically engineered for 2000.

We have a right to halt imports which threaten our health, environment and economy. If the World Trade rules do not allow this then they must be changed. The only argument against this is that biotech companies might suffer.

Which is more important - their profits or our future? MARTIN HUGHES-JONES
Green Party Agriculture Working Group
Tiverton, Devon

IN BRIEF

And if we can't have that, how about enforcement of the existing limits?
ANDREW ROBERTS
Cambridge

Sir: I am sorry Richard Guise (letter, 10 April) suffers at not having to work on religious holidays. But the solution is simple. Let him get a job in a supermarket, where he will have to work on Sundays like it

or no; and if he is still wretched at getting Christmas off, he can always lend a hand at a Crisis shelter for the homeless.
R. L. STURCH
Kidlington, Oxfordshire

Sir: The writer of your caption referring to a "line of donkeys" on the Greek island of Hydra (Travel, 10 April) clearly cannot tell his mule from his ass.
WILLIAM F CASEY
Painswick, Gloucestershire

The greatest sport ever has been overlooked... till now

IN THE 1930s Aldous Huxley broadcast a talk on BBC radio entitled *Why Wars Happen*. He was telling the world, shortly before the start of the Second World War, why wars happen, and nobody seems to have been listening. I didn't hear it at the time. In fact, I didn't hear it till many years later, when I was working on a BBC programme which took material from the BBC archives and I came across the talk, so I dug it out and became, for all I know, the only person who has listened to it in the last 60 years.

His explanation of why wars happen was simplicity itself. They happen because people get bored. He said this was demonstrable because of the suicide rate. The suicide rate always goes down, he said, during a war, because something more important is going on than the

petty affairs of the would-be suicide. And besides, if you commit suicide, you never learn who wins the war. He thought this was not as frivolous as it sounds, because during a war, the suicide rate does not merely dip in the warring nations - it goes down in the neighbouring neutral nations who are looking on.

In other words, war is not just a horrible, vile affair, it is also an engaging spectator sport, as absorbing to the unattached watcher as to the home and away crowd.

I have always remembered this radio talk as a quiet piece of scepticism which sounded convincing but which would probably not bear too much examination. Suicide rate going up and down, depending on war and peace? Hmmmm. So I was quite startled the other day to spot a headline in *The Spectator*

under Theodore Dalrymple's name: "How this war is reducing suicide in Britain".

Could Dalrymple be putting forward the same theory as Aldous Huxley?

He certainly was. Indeed, he said it was more than a theory - it was well-known and generally accepted that wars reduce suicide, and quite observable too. The hospital in which Dalrymple works has had far fewer attempted suicides admitted since the Serbian offensive began, and the same had been true at the time of the Gulf War, though he did admit that the attempted suicides started flooding in again at the time of the cessation of hostilities.

Dalrymple thinks that the Serbian War (are we calling it the Serbian War yet?) may actually be a Government plot to diminish



MILES KINGSTON

War is not just a horrible, vile affair, it is also an engaging spectator sport

would-be suicides and thus relieve pressure on the NHS. What we need now, he theorises,

are a few more wars with inoffensive targets to bomb, at little risk to ourselves, to keep pressure on the NHS down. I think he is wrong here. I am sure he is right about the need for war, but I think that what we have always wanted is a few ding-dong minor wars which were not fought by a big side bombing a little side but which were fought between evenly matched forces under well understood rules, with little at stake - in other words, a war with real spectator value.

The Falklands War was the ideal war. It was fought on a neutral site which nobody in their right mind really wanted to win. Both sides desperately wanted to win the war, but nobody wanted the prize particularly - as Jose Luis Borges said, it was a case of two bald men fighting over a comb. But it was the kind

of enthralling war that stops depressives reaching for the overdose, and I would be willing to bet that the suicide rate hit rock bottom both here and in Argentina.

The great thing about the Falklands War was that there was virtually no civilian presence and therefore no refugee problem. I am afraid that the way the Serbs are murdering and displacing hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians is making the war a less than satisfactory spectator spectacle - a bit like modern rugby, where it is also hard to tell half the time what is going on.

"There must have been some infringement there," says the commentator, "because someone is getting sent off." "There must have been some kind of massacre there," say the war correspond-

dents, "because half a million young men have disappeared."

But it's not good enough. It will never make a great spectator sport until we start hiring out somewhere like the Falklands as a neutral site for other people's wars, fully equipped with floodlights for night fighting and all the up-to-date media facilities necessary for a modern war.

It needs a man with imagination and resources and energy, with the vision to make war the greatest sport of all time. It needs, perhaps, a man who has recently been thwarted in his efforts to take over Manchester United and who is looking for something else to occupy his empty declining years.

War International?
The Sky War Channel?
I don't see why not.

PANDORA

PANDORA'S PERKY Little Book of Doom today falls open at the Royal Opera House. The organisation is spending £218m on its new Covent Garden premises. Progressively, the building features a remarkable anti-elitist urban innovation - no parking spaces. Not even for the disabled. A disabled reader who contacted the ROH to ask where he could leave his car was told "when the building was originally constructed there was no need to park cars used by disabled people". Perhaps he's expected to hitch a ride with a friendly diplomat: they can still park anywhere.

KIM BASINGER (pictured) has been on location in Kenya for her starring role in the film of Kuki Gallman's *I Dream of Africa*. During the shoot, the director Hugh Hudson was proudly boasting that his movie will be Basinger's "first no make-up role". According to one crew member, it took five hours every day in make-up to achieve this effect.

WINDSOR FAMILY retainers estimated in 1993 that they spent about £72,258 on the upkeep of horses and carriages, but only £52,903 on car maintenance. 1999: Buck House says it can't tell us how much it spends on either. You call that accountability?

GET ME Rewrite Dept. The new owners of the erstwhile royal yacht Britannia have moored the boat off the Scottish coast and produced a glossy brochure



to advertise its availability to honeymooners as "A Romantic Retreat". The pictures on the facing page show four happy honeymoon couples on whom Britannia has woven its magic spell: the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of York, Princess Anne with Captain Mark Phillips and Princess Margaret with Antony Armstrong-Jones... all divorced.

A NATO press officer in Brussels had some information for a national newspaper editor. He requested a telephone number and an e-mail address, both of which were read back to him. But his communication arrived as a fax on the telephone message line. Not quite the reassurance we need about Nato's ability to target.

THE AMERICANS had planned a big bash in Washington next weekend to celebrate Nato's 50th birthday. Representatives from 40 nations were due to show - oops - better make that 39, looks as if the Russians aren't coming. Something else that won't be making an appearance is that special celebratory Nato stamp the US Mail had planned to release to coincide with the birthday party. It depicts a dove and an olive branch.

AND YOU thought stamp collectors were dull? On a mission to find legal alternatives to illicit chemical refreshment, it seems that trainee philatelists on these shores have taken to licking massive amounts of glue from the back of stamps to enhance their enjoyment of their hobby. This raises a number of sticky questions, like: Is there such a thing as a recreational stamp lick? What happens when status-conscious youths start hugging more expensive stamps? Conspiracy theorists believe it's all a Royal Mail ploy to combat the switch to e-mail.

OH, AND there's a new sobriquet for *The Sunday Times*'s Rich List - a supplement in no way undermined by its lack of scrutiny of the Murdoch family's £3.5bn assets. City babes are calling it *The Goldiggers' Handbook*.

Contact Pandora by e-mail: pandora@independent.co.uk

Does a prima ballerina bounce?



DAVID LISTER

There is nothing wrong in us knowing that these magical dancers are also human beings

FOR ALL the thousands of column inches devoted to the performing arts, one area remains almost permanently hidden from view. It is the rehearsal room. Audiences and critics are virtually never allowed access. And, for the sake of their own reputations, directors and performers rarely divulge what mistakes, tantrums, sobbing and sackings go on.

So we should all thank the Royal Ballet. Someone has let slip that at a recent rehearsal someone let slip. To be precise, Bruce Sansom let slip Viviana Durante.

To let any prima ballerina slip through your fingers is unfortunate. To let slip the beautiful, sultry and technically outstanding Durante, one of the company's brightest stars, is verging on carelessness. Not least because she is a self-confessed passionate woman. When Sansom dropped her he felt the full weight of that passion, directed verbally at him.

Durante, who fell heavily, flew into a rage and is now not going on the Royal Ballet's tour of Japan. The Royal Ballet at first seemed to

are not good. In non-choreographic parlance, the one who ended up on the floor no longer wants to be lifted and twirled by the one who put her there.

Perhaps classical dance could take a lesson from premier-league soccer. Ballet has no disciplinary committees. Robbie Fowler and Graeme Le Saux, who fell out on the pitch, have been told to act in comradely fashion, suspended for a few games and fined. Had there been a ballet disciplinary committee, Durante and Sansom could have been forced to sit out a matinee and told to shake hands, or do a *pas de deux* as they emerged from the Covent Garden disciplinary tribunal.

But while Fowler and Le Saux can and will play together for England again, it may not be wise for Durante and Sansom to partner each other too often. The audience reaction could be a problem. Again, just as in football, where the goalkeeper often has to take the goal kick to a rising cry of "AAAAAAAHHH" from the fans behind the goal, it might be hard for the occupants of the front stalls to resist a similar

reactive gasp each time Durante and Sansom combined.

Personally, I rejoice that we have Viviana Durante. The passion of her Italian background is much needed in the very English, repressed confines of the Royal Ballet. Of the present mess, she says: "Things happen in rehearsals, which are always sensitive situations. There are a lot of people in the room and there are vibes flying around. I did react, but there is a way of taking things in hand and dealing with them without taking away my shoes... There are problems at the Royal Ballet, such as communication, that are not being addressed and I don't want to find myself in a situation where my shows are being taken away from me."

Durante is passionate, but no prima donna. She has come to the rescue of the company often, stepping into leading roles at the last minute when other dancers were injured, including the opening night of *The Sleeping Beauty* in Washington, before President Clinton.

If the Royal Ballet parts company with Durante now, then she will have

paid the price of honesty. That would be deeply unfair to Sir Anthony Dowell, and Miss Durante's fellow ballerinas, one of whom sits on the Arts Council, should be brave enough to say so publicly. Plain speaking by artists is all too rare in the arts, but the passions, pride and mistakes of the rehearsal room are also part of the process of making a work of art. Does it really do any harm for the public to hear about them occasionally?

Sir Anthony should not be alarmed that a bit of butterfingers in rehearsal and a subsequent shouting-match have reached a wider public. There is nothing wrong in our knowing that these magical dancers are also human beings.

For those of us lucky enough to go and watch the Royal Ballet regularly in performance, it comes almost as a surprise to discover they are mortal. On stage they make perfection look so easy that it is almost a relief to learn that behind the locked doors of the rehearsal room there's no knowing whether Manon will leap into her lover's arms or end up with a thud on the floor.

The Poor List would make most unedifying reading



ANNE MCELVY

Which child of incapable or absent parents would we include when there are so many of equal misery?

EVER SINCE the Greeks met in the forum to mutter about the wealth of Croesus, and Petronius satirised the table manners and conspicuous consumption of the Roman nouveau riche in the *Satyricon*, wealth has been a spectator sport. Why else should we care who is on the newly published 1999 rich list, unless we are in the irksome position of the Queen, who has fallen from number one in 1998 to a mere equal 87th with a bookmaker and a property developer, or the more enviable one of the man running a hotly traded software company at the age of 23?

The last week has seen the publication of further hit parades of Asian wealth in Britain, and a pecking-order of young millionaires. All the tables and cross-references, the snakes-and-ladders diagrams and graphs, reflect two basic reasons why we give a damn.

The first is the sheer fascination with figures - the fetishism that wealth arouses in its own right. Bill Gates's Microsoft is valued at some £36bn. But very close behind him is another £30bn-plus contender - the Robson Watson family of retailers. So even Gates does not enjoy the absolute dominance of Rockefeller in the America of his day.

Nor do the new rich exude the glamour and savoir-faire that were typical of wealthy America, or of Britain in the Thirties. There are some appalling haircuts in the UK top 10. You could no longer assume, as did Beverly Nichols when writing his lyrical ode to privileged pre-war society, *Merry Hall*, that this list would embody "The tinkling laughter of champagne, the music which goes faster and faster, the sheer profusion of white - white dresses, white roses, white tablecloths - the dizzy gay life of the old houses".

Wealth seems less fun than it used to be. It is certainly more democratic. The second reason why we are intrigued by the precise distribution

of riches is that the lists provide route maps to society and social mobility. Two hundred years ago, the monied elite in Britain consisted of landowners whose resources were inseparable from their place in the political hierarchy of the land. There was no doubt about the correlation between wealth and power.

Today the picture is far more complex. The assumptions we could readily make 20 years ago, about a rich person being overwhelmingly likely to prefer a Conservative to a Labour government, no longer hold true. Maybe I should know the political leanings of Hans Rausing, the Swedish-born owner of the Tetra Pak packaging company, who is on the top rung of the British wealth ladder, valued at £3.4bn. Or then again, maybe he has none, or chooses not to act on them.

Nor do we any longer find the spectacle of a Labour millionaire to be unnatural. For the Tories, this breaking of the link between wealth and party loyalty is another source of anxiety about their future. William Hague is relaunching himself upon an unsuspecting public as an ordinary

bloke in the hope of exploiting suspicions that Blairite Labour is too attached to the wealthy and successful to be truly concerned with Mr and Mrs Ordinary. The old identity of Conservatism as a buoyant and confident creed, is shifting to one that is in danger of feeding only on resentments.

At a certain point, however, wealth reaches a critical mass at which it accrues power beyond that of mere governments. The new Internet wealth creators have the advantage of operating in a non-territorial world, which makes it far harder to control their expansion. Developed capitalism, with its emphasis on lifting barriers to enterprise, exposes governments to the danger of having their power as regulators and tax-risers eroded by the entrepreneurs it set free. Would you place your bet on governments finding new ways to levy taxes on Internet transactions, or on the apprentice masters of the universe finding a way round them?

The battle between elected governments and business may well be the dominant one of the next century. In Russia, we have just seen a Punch and Judy version in the arrest warrant issued for Boris Yeltsin, one of the country's most powerful oligarchs, who finds himself in enforced, if luxurious, exile because of the shift in power relations between Prime Minister Primakov and the warring Boris Yeltsin.

You knew it wouldn't be long before the question was raised: if more of us are getting richer, how come we ain't happy? This dogged linkage reflects centuries of philosophical ideals and conflicts. People uncomfortable with the very idea of wealth are following in the tradition of Plato. Aristotle and the parts of classical idealism that hold that money is an unbalancing force, an alienation from the good and pure life - a bias reflected in the biblical



Hans Rausing, milk carton billionaire

Pressens Bild AB

simile between camels passing through the eye of a needle and rich men getting into the kingdom of heaven, and in Marx's aversion to accumulation.

It took Adam Smith, with his scepticism of classical philosophy and astute analysis of the usefulness of wealth creation, to change the balance of the argument in the last century towards the rich, a trend that has been magnified by the more democratic nature of wealth since the Second World War. In terms of their public image and popularity, the new rich have never had it so good. We are more likely to reserve our grumbling envy for inherited wealth. I have a peculiar aversion, for instance, to spending any money in the furniture shop owned by David Linley, on the grounds that it is not the place of a meritocrat to add to the wealth of royalty.

Plato may have been too rarefied

in his view of the dangers of wealth for human nature. But his instinct that money is not the alpha and omega of a man or his society was quite correct. If we tried to compile a list of the poorest hundred people in Britain, the obvious contrast with the rich list would be the lack of variety of circumstances and backgrounds among the destitute.

While the rich are drawn from an ever wider social sphere, the very poor stay very poor for a depressingly similar cast of reasons - poor parents, poor housing, poor schools, poor diets, poor expectations. Which homeless drug addict, which child of incapable, cruel or absent parents would we choose to include when there are so many of equal misery to qualify?

Unlike the very rich, who have names and addresses, the very poor are anonymous, which is all the more reason to remember them.

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From cultural barbarian to cult icon

IT HAS long been recognised that the exhibitions of Abstract Expressionism circulating in Europe in the 1960s were part of a cultural offensive during the Cold War to establish the United States of America as a benign superpower and a model of democratic freedom. As early as 1950 Lewis Galanter indicated the necessity for such a strategy: "When a nation attains to world leadership, it preserves that rank only as long as its culture... commands respect... Without it, wealth and might lead only to hatred, conspiracy and revolt against the physically dominant power."

Respect for that culture did not simply come through the appreciation of high art however. American art was promoted in Europe within the context of a general infiltration of American products, financial aid and lifestyle. That context conditioned the reception of Abstract Expressionism and in particular, of Jackson Pollock.

The first sight of Pollock's painting in England occurred in 1953 at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in Dover Street in an exhibition called

"Opposing Forces". It was greeted with amusement and Pollock was ridiculed in advance of the late arrival of his works. Those critics who actually did see his work judged it to be decorative.

"Modern Art in the United States", shown at the Tate Gallery in 1956, was more widely reviewed. The introduction to the catalogue lent credibility to some of the stereotypical views of American art which had been circulating since the end of the war. It constructed an image of Pollock as a cowboy, a Wild West savage and thus a cultural barbarian and this was willingly adopted by a number of critics.

Themes of bestiality, violence and barbarism were never far from the critics' minds. While primitivism denoted lack of culture, barbarism had not that long ago been associated with fascism. Thus Pollock symbolised the uncivilised enemy of European culture. The image that America had exported through literature, films, art and art writing had thoroughly permeated English minds.

The mixed critical reception of "Modern Art in the United



PODIUM

JEREMY LEWISON

From a lecture on Jackson Pollock by the director of collections at the Tate Gallery

States" was understandable in the context of general attitudes towards America, but by the time that the Pollock retrospective arrived at the Whitechapel Art Gallery in November 1958 the response had significantly changed. Whereas in 1956, having seen only a handful of paintings, many critics had regarded them as chaotic, they now perceived a logical development and an underlying order.

The fact that a clear chronological development and a substantial range of Pollock's work was visible had helped to convert the critics to his cause. Hans Namuth's film, which was shown at two lectures and on BBC television, was also crucial, for critics were able to see that the paintings were not produced in frenzy, as had been popularly supposed, but calmly and rhythmically.

The impact of the Whitechapel show on artists was extraordinary. For many the image of the wild man, the James Dean of painting, was particularly appealing. The bohemian, sophisticated Parisian, who by now was perceived as conformist and conventional, had been eclipsed by the smoking, jeans-clad, macho American. Namuth's photographs, by now widely known, employed a vocabulary familiar to the cinema-going public.

In the climate of the "angry young man", after the débacle of Suez in which the authority of government was completely discredited, when artists and writers were trying to break down social hierarchies and structures and free them-

selves from restricting conventions, the rawness was innovating and exciting. Pollock's violent image found a parallel in the language of Jimmy Porter and his neurotically aggressive exterior in John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*.

The extent to which American culture was now admired was exemplified by the fact that the *Times Literary Supplement* published a special supplement titled "The American Imagination" on 6 November 1958. The lead article, "Taking Stock: A Scattered Abundance of Creative Richness", had as its only illustration one of Namuth's photographs of Pollock in action. The United States was now wholeheartedly accepted by the establishment as a cultural force.

With the British economy on an upsurge and rationing at an end, people began to acquire American products and participate in the dream. In a decade and a half since the war, America had been transformed from a target for ridicule to a role model. The reception of Jackson Pollock and the new American painting must be considered within this context.

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SAIGUE
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The post-Monica presidency

RIGHT
OF REPLY



MARY
DEJEVSKY

Somehow, between then
and now, the President
has re-established
his credibility



The nation is rallying behind President Clinton in his role as Commander in Chief fighting a just war



JANET
LAURENCE

The former head of
the Crime Writers'
Association replies
to a recent article on
members' in-fighting

WHO WOULD have believed that within a month of Monica Lewinsky's television interview, America would have put a whole year of sordid presidential scandal and constitutional angst so firmly in its place? But as the United States goes to war, the smallness, the meanness and the sheer anatomical awfulness of the White House sex saga reveal it for what it was: a domestic distraction.

The war is real. You would not necessarily know that from the television screen. The programmes labelled "White House in Crisis" have faded noiselessly into "Kosovo in Crisis" - the nightly tale of displaced people and military folk. The parade of confident blonde lawyers on the talk shows has given way to a posse of equally confident armchair generals.

But the people know. No one has mentioned *Wag the Dog* - except the Serbs. Belgrade television aired the (American) film - which tells how a compromised President fabricated a "virtual" war with, of all places, Albania - just as the all-clear sounded after the first night of Nato bombing.

It was a neat propaganda point scored by beleaguered Serbia, but it was lost on Americans. They were rallying around their Commander-in-Chief. You remember: the one supposedly so discredited by his Oval Office frolics that he had lost all respect; the one who would be forever pictured on his Kennedy-esque rocking-chair being ministered to by Monica; the one who sanctioned the dismissal of soldiers for lying about adultery while he was bearing equally false witness to all America; the one who said that it all depended on what the definition of "is" is?

Well, somehow, between then and now, the President has re-established his credibility. Or probably, as the polls consistently testified, he never really lost it. The public did, after all, "compartmentalise" his sins. He ordered his troops into battle and they obeyed. The same people who questioned his motives for bombing Sudan and Afghanistan last summer and Iraq in December are now wrapping themselves in the flag. And even as his cabinet fights about who gave or

ignored what advice about dealing with the Serbs and saving the Kosovars, the President himself has seemed to float above the fray.

He has looked weary, at times preoccupied, but never wavering, at least not in public. The impression being given - which is, of course, carefully cultivated - is that if advice was ignored, whether on the effect of the air strikes or the scale of the exodus, it was for the noblest of reasons. And the unspoken message is one whose truth will never be proved beyond doubt: if Nato had not acted when it did, there would have been carnage on an epic scale; those hundreds of thousands of dispossessed people would not now be in exile, they would have died.

"We have a lot of tough questions to answer about this operation," Mr Clinton told reporters early on, acknowledging misgivings in his own camp, "and I am quite sure that we cannot answer every one to everyone's satisfaction." But, he went on, "I would far rather be standing here answering these questions, with these people [members of his cabinet and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff] talking about this endeavour, than I would be to stand-

ing here having you ask me why we are permitting a wholesale ethnic slaughter, and 'ethnic cleansing', and the creation of hundreds of thousands of refugees, and not lifting a finger to do anything about it."

Both Mr Clinton and his Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, exude the sense that they are trying to replay the history of the Second World War and give it a different ending before the century is out. For Ms Albright one factor may have been the loss of family in Nazi concentration camps and her own flight to the United States.

For Mr Clinton, there may be alongside the moral concern to avert anything resembling a new Holocaust, a desire to rebut accusations that have dogged his presidency, and especially his foreign policy: that his actions abroad have been dictated not by any higher purpose, but by the polls; that he is not the visionary shaper of the world that maybe he had hoped to be, but a mere manager of crises that his neglect helped create, and that he has no policy, only reactions.

Whether genuine or fabricated after the event, the Administration's argument that Nato is - or was - trying to stop the extermination of the Albanian Kosovars before it was too late, is hard to disprove.

Not even the evidence that is before us of an appalling misreading of President Milosevic's intentions and unconscionable suffering on the part of Kosovo's Albanians refutes the argument that - at least on this occasion - Mr Clinton's intentions were honourable.

And it is quite possible that Mr Clinton will be able to stick with this argument to the end. In the unlikely event that Nato retreats from its objective of bombing Serbia into loosening its hold on Kosovo, Mr Clinton can say that he did his very best - but (and any one of these would suffice) an insufficient number of Allies/Americans/Congressmen had the stomach needed for the fight, and he is regretfully stepping back.

He can even turn the biggest miscalculation of all to his advantage, arguing that it was the miscalculation of an innocent, he just could not believe so ill of anyone, even Mr Milosevic, that he would drive almost the whole Albanian population of Kosovo from their homes.

More likely, though, such arguments will not be needed. Nato will

- in Mr Clinton's words - "persist and prevail"; at least, it will reach a point where it can claim to have done so. In that case, he will stand vindicated before the doubters in his Administration, in the military, in Congress, and in the Alliance, at least until the bills - and not just the financial ones - start rolling in.

For Mr Clinton personally, the aftermath of the Kosovo conflict could be positive if it helps to restore the missing moral element to his presidency. But it will probably be less kind to others. Those in the Administration who questioned the wisdom of the military operation will appear churlish, almost regardless of the outcome. If the operation is not deemed a success, a particular loser could be Vice-President Al Gore, not because he expressed doubts about the enterprise - on the contrary, he has been responsible for some of the most fierce, and most simplistic, rhetoric about Slobodan Milosevic - but because he will be associated with the failure rather than the moral leadership.


In the longer term, there will be calls for explanations that go beyond the immediate questions of why Milosevic's intentions were so badly

misread and why the extent of the exodus from Kosovo was not anticipated. There will be questions about whether it was wise for the United States to get itself into a position where its money, if not its troops, will be required to help protect the Kosovar Albanians for years if they return home. There will be questions about the damage done to the West's relations with Russia, where resentment of US and Nato action could extend into the next generation and beyond.

So long as he does not lose his nerve and forsake the moral high ground, Mr Clinton could well emerge from what must be one of the sorriest diplomatic and military miscalculations of the past two decades with his personal authority enhanced and his presidential legacy rehabilitated. That there had been warnings of the pitfalls ahead from the Pentagon and intelligence services only makes that positive judgement more, not less, likely. Not Monica, but Kosovo will define his two terms at the White House; not making love, but waging war - and a war that a consensus on both sides of the Atlantic sees, for the time being at least, as just.

on

Praise where praise isn't due



THESE DAYS the words "operatic" and "miracle" do not spend much time in each other's company. "Operatic" and "disaster" maybe; "operatic" and "edificence" certainly, and all too predictably John Jolliffe, though, bravely gives his history of Glynedebourne the subtitle "an operatic miracle".

For him, Glynedebourne represents the very best that opera has to offer. As early as his second chapter, he states confidently that "For the world of opera in England, nothing has ever been more fortunate than John and Audrey's marriage".

So forget Purcell, Handel and Britten; forget the Royal Opera and English National Opera. In fact, forget the


whole of English operatic life. Think only of John Christie and Audrey Mildmay. They married in 1931, a year after Mildmay had sung in a performance of Act 1 of Mozart's *Die Entführung* which Christie had put on at the large estate in Sussex he inherited (with much other property) from his father in 1930.

When John and Audrey met, Glynedebourne was a country house where music occasionally happened. Shortly after they returned from their honeymoon, they put plans in place to build a small opera house there: "Not since Count Esterhazy built his opera house for Haydn," hyperbolises Jolliffe, "had there been such a magnificent example of private musical enterprise."

Glynedebourne is certainly special, but you don't have to be an unconstructed Spastik to wonder whether the wealth and privilege on which it is built, and to which it plays host every season, can really make the kind of contribution to a broader culture that Jolliffe claims.

He himself records a comment Christie made late in life, with no little irony, that "he would, if he could, have surrounded Glynedebourne with barbed wire in order to keep out the unworthy". Here the "unworthy" are those unprepared to take opera seriously, but you can't help but feel that a little social exclusion is also implied.

Why else encourage evening dress? Jolliffe suggests that this serves to discourage the frivolous, but surely it does precisely the opposite? Later he reveals the percentage of tickets available in 1985 to the general public, after "corporate and individual members had claimed their due". For *Cornelia*, the figure was a minuscule 6.25 per cent; for Strauss's *Arabella*, 8.6 per cent. On the other hand, members had bought barely half the tickets available for Britten's *Albert Herring*, and fewer than a third of those for new works by a young composer (Oliver Knussen).



Picnickers on the lawn at Glynedebourne

Tom Pilston



MONDAY POEM

HIGH TIDE, CATFORD

BY CLARE MACDONALD SHAW

Live at the terminus for a fast bus home.
Not this one's a 47, racing for our flats,
so jump it at the lights. Conductor's upstairs,
totting cash. Hang off the deck, swinging out
in the nightstream, the wash of air. Schooner
rounds the cinema, tilting past dark creeks
of driveways. Hate to land up there; the flats
are dull enough, but high tide should float
our boat again. Keep escaping -

triangle sail from the mast, hair blown,
arm free, navy skirt for canvas - oh,
feet gone too. Nearly flew the crossbones.

Pilot's seen me. Tired of life already? Get inside.
It's late to be out. Sit, behave; learn to shoot
films in the head. Tonight: *My Last Typhoon*.

From Clare MacDonald Shaw's first collection, 'Blue Fever', published
at £7 by Blackwater Press, PO Box 5115, Leicester LE2 8ZD



MONDAY BOOK

GLYNEDEBOURNE:
AN OPERATIC MIRACLE

BY JOHN JOLLIFFE, JOHN MURRAY, £25

Of course, the corporate and individual subscribers make Glynedebourne possible, not least by having raised £34m to build the new opera house that opened in 1994.

Their money famously enabled the place to get by without state subsidy, although Jolliffe points out that tax relief is available on some kinds of donation. However a relief is granted, it is a form of state subsidy, just as surely as the grant given to the two orchestras that play at Glynedebourne (the London Philharmonic and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment).

I'm sure Glynedebourne itself would concede that it could not exist without the infrastructure provided by state subsidy. Its touring and educational arms (culturally no less significant than the annual festival) do, of course, receive public finance, if not as much as they deserve.

Subsidy, privilege, outreach, education: Jolliffe touches on all of these, as well as on such thorny subjects as opera sing in translation, which he has no time for; production style, which he wants to be modern but decorous; and modern opera, a good thing as long as it behaves itself. By and large, though, what interests him is Glynedebourne as Glynedebourne, a subject he finds

endlessly fascinating. He is unstinting in his praise of every aspect of it, even down to the catering.

Early a dissenting voice is heard. He mentions, for example, that Jonathan Miller "did not feel at all at home at Glynedebourne" when he staged Janacek's *The Cunning Little Vixen* there in 1975, but he has nothing to say about what made Miller feel uncomfortable. He's keen only to accentuate the positive, so that his book reads like an enthusiastic and eventually tiresome report to the AGM.

Is Glynedebourne, then, an "operatic miracle"? Well, it's unique, although others (not mentioned by Jolliffe) attempt something similar: big house, pretty gardens, evening dress and picnics, opera in foreign languages. And it would be churlish to deny that, in attracting great singers, conductors, directors and designers, Glynedebourne has enriched operatic life. But whose?

That's another matter, and it isn't just a question of how many seats are available, at what price, to non-members. While we grant all due credit to its touring company and educational work, they are not what is meant by "Glynedebourne". That remains more anachronism than miracle.

NICK KIMBERLEY

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Cardinal Raúl Silva

CARDINAL RAÚL SILVA Henríquez, former archbishop of Santiago, was an outstanding example of the best of the Roman Catholic episcopate in Latin America. A man of humility always active for the poor and for human rights, never free under right-wing dictatorships of threats against his life. He took a genuine pride in being from a family of huasos, Chilean peasants.

As with many others of his outlook, notably the murdered Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador and Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns, archbishop of São Paulo, his courage was seldom admired and his views seldom taken into account at the court of Pope John Paul II. His retirement from the archbishopric in 1983, tendered to the pope when he reached the suggested retiring age of 75, was accepted with indecent haste.

The Vatican was nurturing its strong relationship with General Augusto Pinochet - which, as its recent intervention on his behalf with the Prime Minister and the Archbishop of Canterbury has demonstrated, remains strong - and was happy that an irritant to that relationship was no more.

Raúl Silva was born the 16th of 19 children of a poor family in the southern city of Talca. After taking a law degree in Santiago he entered the Salesian order in his mid-twenties, going on to study and be ordained in Turin in 1938, an experience which gave him an early experience of Fascism.

John XXIII named him bishop of Valparaíso in 1959. He was appointed archbishop of Santiago in 1961, becoming cardinal the following year. He played a major part in the Second Vatican Council. As with most of the Chilean hierarchy he had a good relationship with the Christian Democratic government of President Eduardo Frei Montalva (father of Chile's current president Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle) who was elected in 1964 and handed over the sash of office to his constitutional successor the Socialist Dr Salvador Allende in 1970.

Many foresaw a stormy relationship between church and state after the inauguration of Allende's wobbly six-party Popular Unity coalition, not just on ideological grounds but also because of the wide difference in outlook between the undemonstrative and ascetic son of the soil and the ebullient middle-class politician, a bob vivant and freemason. The storm never came since the two men got on well, seeing in each other

a shared concern for the common man and at the disgusting conditions in which Chilean society condemned millions to live. Allende, too, seeing enough threats at home and abroad, cannot have wanted the enmity of a powerful and well-organised church.

In his memoirs Silva recounted how Allende had said to him, "I can promise you, Don Raúl, that I won't touch the Church, not even with a rose petal." Though there were tensions with Allende, notably about reform of education, they were overcome. "He was always prepared to talk and find a solution," said the cardinal in an interview

As Silva made his ceremonial obeisance to the new pontiff in St Peter's he flouted protocol, bent his ear and begged him to throw the Vatican's weight against the generals as they were mobilising their armies

given in 1983. During the Allende years his refusal to manoeuvre against the elected government and throw in his lot with those who were seeking its overthrow alienated him from many rich Chileans.

Silva, as many other Chileans, suffered a rude awakening when the military plotters led by Pinochet overthrew their superior officers and staged a bloody putsch on 11 September 1973.

An early experience of what things were going to be like came, for instance, when an emissary from Pinochet arrived at the Cardinal's house a few days after the coup, accompanied by an army chaplain in uniform and carrying a pistol. Ascanio Cavallo, historian of the time, recounts how the Cardinal had the following conversation with the priest:

"What on earth are you doing with that pistol in your belt, hombre?"

"Your Eminence, these are dangerous times."

"But you're a priest!"

"I'm a military chaplain, Your Eminence..."

"And what does that mean? Are you going to shoot with that thing? Are you going to kill somebody?"

About the same time Silva vetoed the wish of the successful plotters to have a Te Deum for the new regime celebrated in some military unit. Guided by Silva the bishops' conference angered the military by its refusal to refer to the coup as a patriotic act of national salvation.

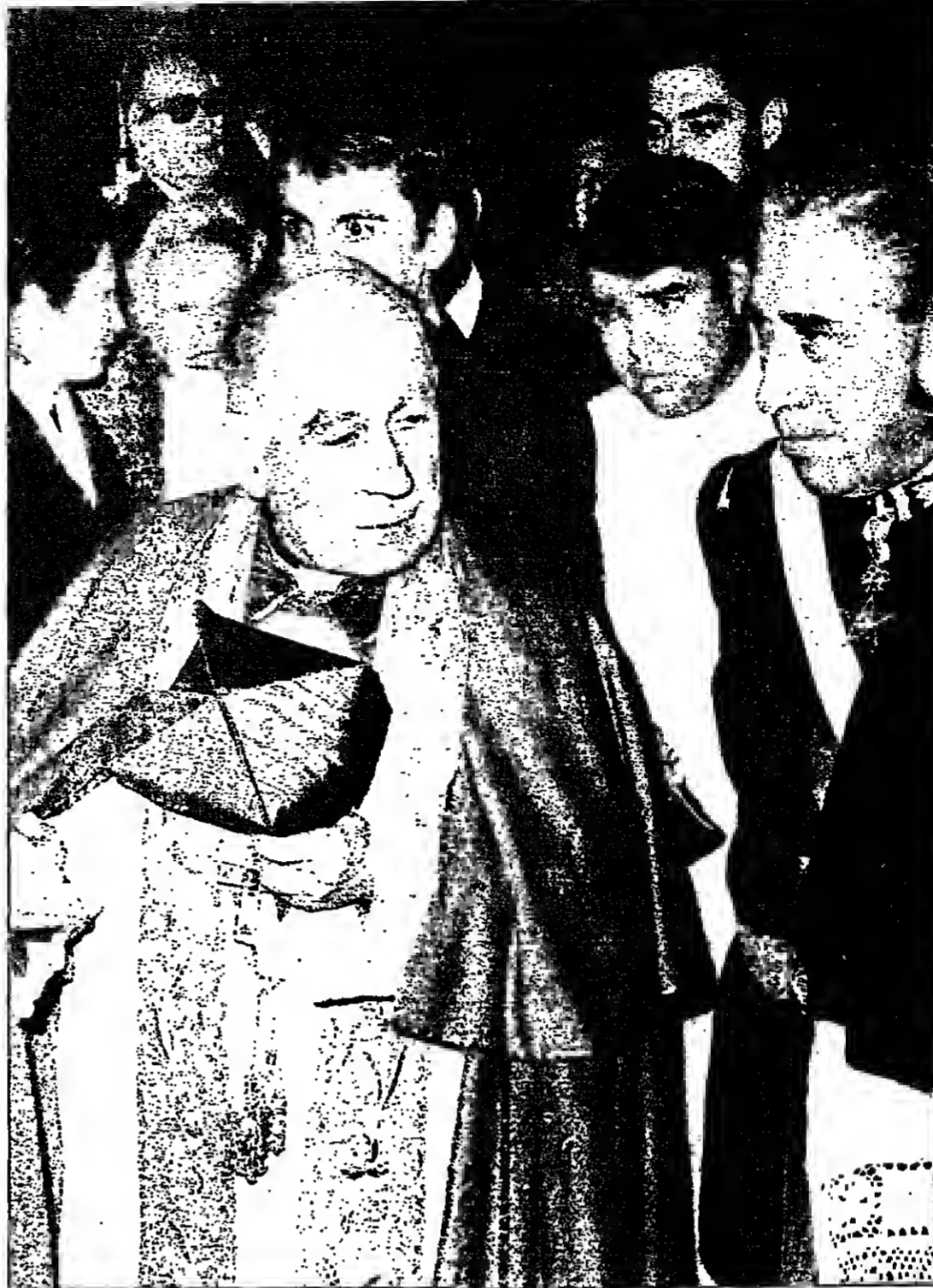
Some of his brother bishops, however, were more enthusiastic for the putsch. One sent his bishop's ring to the junta as "a modest contribution to the work of Chile's reconstruction." A few weeks later another said in reference to the abolition of the Congress, "It's a great benefit to the country that the Honourable Governing Junta has imposed political silence for a long period."

Seeing the extent of the killings, torture, exile and other excesses Silva moved swiftly to create an ecumenical relief organisation, the Comité Pro Paz, to aid the victims. Presided over by a Catholic bishop, its leaders included Jews and Christians alike.

Pope Paul VI was fully informed of the desperate situation in Chile and was ready to move. He wrote a confidential letter to the Chilean bishops expressing his horror at the Junta's "bloody repression" but his ministers were dubious. The nuncio Monsignor Sotero Sanz begged Don Raúl to dissuade the Pope from publishing it.

In an uncharacteristic blunder the Cardinal went to Rome and did that, an action which he was later to regret. Two years later after the British surgeon Dr Sheila Cassidy had been comprehensively tortured by the secret police who were under the close personal control of the dictator, Silva begged Paul VI to denounce Pinochet's regime publicly but the Pope told him the time had passed.

Meanwhile Pinochet's men encouraged the Vatican to have the uncooperative Silva removed from the primacy of Chile. Parallel to that the regime made efforts to blacken his name linking him to supposed financial irregularities. The Pope had a discreet investigation made, which cleared him and subsequently gave him more Vatican money for his charitable works.



Silva with General Pinochet after a religious ceremony in Santiago, 1980 AP/Santiago Llanquín

Giving the military the slip, Silva abolished the Comité Pro Paz, which the regime was threatening to close down by force, and cleverly founded a new body, the Vicaría de Solidaridad, a purely archiepiscopal venture under his personal control to assist the persecuted. In 1978 its labours were recognised when the UN decided to give it its human rights award in a ceremony in New York.

That year Pope Paul died and Silva attended the conclave to elect the new pope in the midst of extreme tension between the military in Chile and Argentina over frontier disputes. Silva seized the initiative with Albano Luciani, the newly elected John Paul I, and a man with more immediate problems on his mind than the posturing of two South American dictators. As Silva made his ceremonious obeisance to the

new pontiff in St Peter's he flouted protocol, bent his ear and begged him to throw the Vatican's weight against the generals as they were mobilising their armies. His action did much to avert a bloody war in the Western hemisphere.

Luciani's successor Wojtyła named to the nunciature in Santiago Monsignor Angelo Sodano, whose experience of Chile dated back to the last days of the civilian government and the first of the military dictatorship. Silva had high hopes of a good relationship with the man from Head Office. Sodano, however, in an attitude characteristic of the disloyalty that many Vatican diplomats have long shown to the needs of the local church, was keener on cultivating Pinochet than on aiding Silva. Now Sodano is a cardinal himself and Vatican Secretary of State, his

actions in intervening last year with the British authorities for Pinochet cannot have come as a surprise.

Silva's resignation was announced by Rome in May 1983. General Pinochet's wife Lucia, ever keen to underline her and her husband's close relationship with their Maker, exclaimed, "It seems God has heard us."

Raúl Silva was succeeded by Archbishop Francisco Fresno de La Serena, living quietly and keeping his own counsel. His later years were overshadowed by Alzheimer's disease.

HUGH O'SHAUGHNESSY

Raúl Silva Henríquez, priest: born Talca, Chile 27 September 1907; ordained priest 1938; Bishop of Valparaíso 1959-61; Archbishop of Santiago 1961-83; named a cardinal 1962; died Santiago 9 April 1999.

Jack Bridle

JACK BRIDLE had a long and distinguished career as a fireman from 1931 to 1963, which embraced the temporary nationalisation of the country's various fire brigades during the Second World War.

He was "born under a hose-cart", the son of a fireman at the busy Shaftesbury Avenue station of the London Fire Brigade in 1907, when a fireman's working week was 144 hours: when he joined in 1931 Bridle's hours were still half that. Even so there was no shortage of recruits, and to improve his chances of following his father into the brigade, he had joined the Army in 1924. After six years in the Royal Engineers he qualified as an instructor at the Command School in Alexandria and had to resist the temptation of a commission and an appointment to the Army Education College at Shorncliffe.

After joining the London Fire Brigade, he made rapid progress through the junior ranks and by 1939, within eight years, was one of the 130 District Officers, from whom the 20

Superintendents were selected. The threat of war had increased promotion prospects; a new rank of Chief Superintendent had been introduced. But there was no national fire service; fire prevention and fire-fighting were the responsibility of local authorities, and some ran their brigades as an extra division of their police force. Others took a more enlightened and professional approach, and kept them separate.

Yet, despite a recent Royal Commission there was no responsibility for local authorities to co-operate with one another, and a distinct and almost aggressive parochialism prevailed. The new Auxiliary Fire Service of 1938 was by no means the single body that its name suggests; the constituent pumps and personnel were essentially auxiliary to one of the multiplicity of local brigades. At government level such planning that was possible was in the hands of the Police and Fire Brigade Division of the Home Office, their hands strengthened by their administration of government grants

for additional equipment, which included German turntable ladders.

In 1939 the Home Secretary decided that his office must do what it could to provide some centralising influence, and suggested his tiny Inspectorate of Fire Brigades, largely by asking the London County Council to second a small but powerful cadre. The Chief Officer himself, so felicitously named Firebrace, led a team of 14 of which Bridle was one; he was assigned to the West Midlands. It was there that he distinguished himself in 1940 by advocating a mobilising procedure of the London Fire Brigade.

Instead of leaving machines in their own stations if they were not ordered to a fire, the LFB had a procedure based on three standard messages - if the incident could be dealt with by local resources, the officer in charge made a home call; if greater strength was needed, a district call brought in appliances from further afield, and if things got worse a brigade call mobilised the entire brigade. District and brigade

calls meant that stations near the fire were reinforced from within the brigade so that cover was maintained over the entire area, even though many of the mobilised machines might not be sent to the incident. This proven procedure meant that time was saved in concentrating reinforcements where they were needed.

There was another precedent of which the Home Office and a London officer would have been aware, based on the 1917 plan whereby London and most if not all the adjacent brigades gave one another mutual support in mobilising against the first air raids on this country. Thus to say that Bridle's plans clashed with a Home Office doctrine that represented the autonomy of local authorities by leaving a concentration of local appliances at their native stations and summoning - or requesting - reinforcements from further afield is perhaps something of an exaggeration. How much operational responsibility was given to second officers is not always clear, but Bri-

dle was called to account by the legendary A.L. (later Sir Arthur) Dixon, a Cambridge wrangler who had entered the Home Office in 1903 and was then an assistant under-secretary in the Police and Fire Brigade department.

But nationalisation of the 1,600 various fire brigades was strategically essential in wartime, and in 1941 they were reconstituted as a single National Fire Service of 39 Fire Forces. Bridle at 34 was by far the youngest of the Fire Force Commanders, and it is significant that he was appointed OBE the next year. His first command was of 23 Area, which covered Warwickshire and the West Midlands; in 1943 he was given the larger command of 4 Area, based at Leeds. Thereafter he saw little of the war on the Home Front and, when it ended and the National Fire Service was restored to the counties and boroughs of the day, he ended his fire-fighting career as Chief Fire Officer of West Sussex from 1948. In 1963 he retired to Guernsey. A.B. SAINSBURY



Bridle: 'born under a hose-cart'

Alfred John Bridle, fire-fighter: born London 30 June 1907; OBE 1942; married 1936 Eva Talbot (two sons); died St Peter Port, Guernsey 27 January 1999.

Metropolitan Pymen

A MEMBER of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church episcopate for almost the entire period of Communist rule, Pymen surprised everyone in post-Communist Bulgaria by siding with a dissident faction that was seeking reform in the Church. The rebels were particularly gunning for Patriarch Maxim who, they said, had been appointed by the Communist government in 1971 rather than being freely elected according to church canons.

Pymen, who had worked closely with the Communist regime himself and had been one of Maxim's closest colleagues, was an unlikely leader for the rebel faction, but in May 1992 he formed a "renewed synod" consisting of 12 bishops who

rejected Maxim. The rebels took over the Church's headquarters in central Sofia. In July 1996 the dissident names Pymen as their Patriarch in Maxim's place, a decision not recognised by the majority of the Church within Bulgaria or by the Orthodox Churches in the rest of the world.

The unseemly schism also had political overtones: Maxim and his supporters had the backing of the Socialists (the reformed Communists), while Pymen and his supporters received the backing of the Union of Democratic Forces.

Although the Bulgarian Church has not traditionally enjoyed such fervent support as the national Churches in other Orthodox coun-

tries, this dispute did nothing to raise its prestige. The sight of robed clerics coming to blows over church premises disgusted many people.

Born Enev Nedelchev in Chirpan, not far from Plovdiv, he took the religious name Pymen on becoming a monk in July 1933. The following year he was ordained a monastic priest. In December 1947 he was consecrated bishop and assigned to Stobi. He was transferred to become Metropolitan of Nevrokop (based in Blagoevgrad) in 1953, and it was there that he remained until 1992.

When the dispute arose in 1991 as to how far the Church should repent for its Communist-era collaboration, the dissident faction was led by

a monk priest, Father Hristov Sobuc. A number of bishops threw in their lot with him, but few thought that Pymen would be among them. But when he did so the synod loyal to Maxim removed him as Metropolitan of Nevrokop and the diocese was temporarily put in the hands of Bishop Ioan of Dragovista, the head of the Rila Monastery.

When Pymen was proclaimed patriarch in 1996, Maxim promptly excommunicated him. But Pymen was unbowed, continuing to rule his rump of the Church despite his failing health. In March 1998 he even consecrated an Archbishop of Montenegro.

Hope of resolving the schism came in October 1998, when a pan-

Orthodox synod was held in Sofia, bringing together the Ecumenical Patriarch, six other patriarchs and 20 metropolitans. A formula was worked out whereby Pymen and his supporters formally repented to the synod, the anathema on Pymen was lifted and he and his supporters were restored to full communion and he was granted the title "former Metropolitan of Nevrokop".

Pymen did not himself attend the synod, but accepted the compromise. Maxim for his part gave to understand that he would resign soon afterwards and retire to a monastery he was approaching his 94th birthday, but the deal soon unravelled when he announced that he had no intention of going.

Neither Maxim nor Pymen enjoyed widespread support in the Church and many believe Pymen was chosen to head the rebel faction merely as a figurehead. Having moved from active collaborator with the Communist regime to leader of a schism, he did little to endear himself to the long-suffering Bulgarian Orthodox faithful.

FELIX CORLEY

Enev Nedelchev (Pymen), priest: born Chirpan, Bulgaria 13 June 1906; clothed a monk as Pymen 1933; ordained priest 1934; Bishop of Stobi 1947-53; Metropolitan of Nevrokop 1953-92; named rival Patriarch 1996; died 10 April 1999.

Lillian McMurry

WHEN THE story of the blues' formative relationship with rock 'n' roll is one day told in full, the name of a white woman, wife of a furniture-store owner in Jackson, Mississippi, should be remembered as a seminal influence in the growth of the music.

In 1949, Lillian McMurry was helping her husband clear out a shop he had bought when she came upon a pile of old shellac 78rpm phonograph discs that had been left to gather dust upon a shelf. She put one on a turntable to find out what it was, and the wild sound she heard not only changed her life; it also set in motion a sequence of events that was to reach across the sea to influence young white boys like Eric Clapton and Jimmy Page to make a new kind of music. This music was rooted in the blues, but extended far beyond it into new pastures, far from the Mississippi cotton fields that had given it birth.

The first disc she played was "All She Wants to Do is Rock", by Wynonie "Mr Blues" Harris, whose "Good Rockin' Tonight" was later to become a hit for Elvis Presley. Harris had been a professional performer since the age of 12, and had even appeared in the film *Hit Parade* of 1943. But to Lillian McMurry, he was completely unknown. Even more remarkable than her excitement at what she heard was the fact that, like most of the white middle-class of her generation, until then she had been completely unaware of the music being made on her doorstep by her African-American neighbours.

And while she is given credit for having "discovered" blues legends like the guitarist Elmore James and the harmonica-player Sonny Boy Williamson, the latter had been playing in his own radio show on KFFA radio in Helena, Arkansas, every lunchtime since 1941. She could have heard Sonny Boy just by turning the dial on her radio. But until then, no one had thought to put him on record. By doing so, McMurry joined the select band of record producers, like the legendary Ralph Peer, whose influence shaped the direction of the music.

Though he only cut one solo side with her, Elmore James was probably her greatest discovery. A remarkable slide guitarist who was one of the first bluesmen to electrify his instrument, James was a shy and reticent young man when she enticed him into the studio to record for her new Trumpet record label on 5 August 1951. In fact, he was so frightened of the microphone that she led him to believe it was "only" a rehearsal, when in fact she was recording his version of Robert Johnson's "Dust My Broom" (sometimes also known as "I Believe My Time Ain't Long"). He was so angry at the deception that he refused to record anything more for her, so the record was issued with a track by another artist on the flip side (though Sonny Boy Williamson persuaded James to play on band sides, and he also accompanied Jesse "Tiny" Kennedy when Lillian McMurry took him into Sam Phillips' Sun studio in Memphis to record songs like "Strange Kind of Feeling" and "Have You Heard About the Farmer's Daughter").

A woman of slight stature, born in Purvis, Mississippi, in 1922, Lillian Shedd had lived all over the state as her family moved around during her childhood until she settled down in Jackson to marry Willard McMurry in 1945. Her peripatetic upbringing must have hardened her up, because when she started recording blues musicians, her toughness in the studio became legendary. Sonny Boy Williamson (born Aleck "Rice" Miller) was a gun-and-knife-toting tough guy, and McMurry always relieved him of his weapons when he came in to perform. She would tolerate no bad language in the studio, and when he fell to cursing and swearing on one occasion, she marched him out into the street at the point of his own gun, telling him to return when he'd learned better manners, which he did two weeks later, after an apology. However, he recorded most of his most famous tunes for her before he moved on to more famous labels like Chess, such as "Eyesight to the Blind" (which Pete Townshend included in the Who's rock opera, *Tommy*), "Nine Below Zero", "Too Close Together", "Mr Down Child", "Mighty Long Time", "Pontiac Blues", dedicated to his producer's car, and even a song she wrote for him, "Red Hot Kisses".

When he died, she had the following legend placed upon the headstone for his grave, which she also paid for: Aleck Miller, Better Known As "Willie" Sonny Boy Williamson, Born May 12 1905, Died June 23 1958, Son of Jim Miller and Millie Miller. Internationally Famous Harmonica and Vocal Blues Artist. Discovered and Recorded By Trumpet Records, Jackson Miss. From 1950 to 1953.

Trumpet folded in 1955 and McMurry went back to working in her husband's shop. Last year, she was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame, one of the few record producers to be granted that honour.

KARL DALLAS

Lillian Shedd, record producer: born Purvis, Mississippi 30 December 1922; married 1945 Willard McMurry (died 1996; one daughter); died Jackson, Mississippi 18 March 1999.

Things couldn't get worse? Try using the phone

OF ALL the things that have been placed on earth to try my patience – and gosh aren't there a lot? – none has been more successful over the years than AT&T, the American telephone company.

Given a choice between, say, spilling a beaker of hydrochloric acid on my lap and dealing with AT&T, I would always choose the hydrochloric acid as less painful. AT&T has the world's most indestructible payphones. I know this for a fact because I have never had an experience with AT&T from a payphone that did not result in my giving their equipment a thorough workout.

As you are probably gathering, I don't much like AT&T. But that's OK, because it doesn't like me. It doesn't like any of its customers, as far as I can tell. It dislikes them so much, in fact, that it won't even talk to them. It uses synthesised voices for everything now, which means that no matter how wrong things go – and you can be certain they will – you can never get through to a real

person. All you get is a strange, metallic, curiously snotty robotic voice saying things like: "The number you have dialled is not within a recognised dialling parameter." It is immensely frustrating.

I was reminded of this the other day when I found myself stranded at Logan Airport in Boston because the mini-coach company that was supposed to pick me up and take me home forgot to. I knew that it had forgotten me, and not broken down or had an accident, because as I stood at the designated pickup point the familiar Dartmouth Mini-Coach van approached and, as I went to pick up my bags, sailed past and continued on to the airport exit road and disappeared into the distance, on a general heading for New Hampshire.

So I went off to find a payphone to ring the mini-coach company – just to say hello, you know, and let them know that I was there and ready to go if they would only throw open a door and slow down

enough to let me jump on – and this meant calling AT&T. I gave a ruptured sigh at the prospect. I had just had a long flight; I was tired and hungry and stranded at a charmless airport. I knew it would be at least three hours before the next mini-coach was due. And now I had to deal with AT&T. I approached a bank of payphones outside the airport terminal with deep foreboding.

I didn't have the number for the mini-coach company on me, so I read the instructions for directory inquiries and rang the number. After a minute a synthetic voice came on and brusquely instructed me to deposit \$1.05 in change. I was taken aback by this. Directory inquiries always used to be free. I searched through my pockets, but I had only 67 cents. So I conducted a brief resiliency test with the receiver – yes, still indestructible – grabbed my bags and stalked off to the terminal to acquire change.

Of course, none of the businesses would give change without a purchase, so I had to



buy a copy of *The New York Times*, *Boston Globe* and *The Washington Post* – each purchased separately, with a different note, as no other approach appeared to be allowable – until I had accumulated US\$1.05 in silver coins.

Then I returned to the phone and repeated the process, but it was one of those phones that are very choosy about what coins they take, and it seemed to have a particular dislike for Roosevelt dimes. It's not easy to feed coins into a slot when you have a

receiver pressed to your ear with a shoulder, and three newspapers under your arm, and especially not when the phone is spitting back every third coin you feed it. After about 15 seconds a robotic voice came on and started scolding me – I swear it, scolding me, in an irksome synthetic quaver – and telling me in effect that if I didn't get myself organised pronto it would cut me off. And then it cut me off. A moment later it regurgitated the coins I had deposited. But here's the thing. It didn't return all of them. Between what it had given back and what it wouldn't take, I now had just 90 cents.

So I conducted another, slightly more protracted resiliency test and trudged back into the terminal. I bought a *Providence Journal* and a *Philadelphia Inquirer* and returned to the phone. This time I got through to directory inquiries, announced the number I wanted and hastily pulled out a pen and notepad. I knew from experience that directory inquiries gives a

number just once and then hangs up, so you have to get it down carefully. I listened intently and started to write. The pen was dry. I immediately forgot the number.

I returned to the terminal, bought a *Bangor Daily News*, a *Poughkeepsie Journal* and a plastic ballpoint, and returned. This time I got the number, carefully recorded it and dialled. Success at last. A moment later a voice on the other end said brightly, "Good morning! Dartmouth College!"

"Dartmouth College?" I stammered, aghast. "I wanted the Dartmouth Mini-Coach Company." I had used up all my remaining coins on this call and couldn't believe that I would have to go back into the terminal yet again to accumulate more. I suddenly wondered how many of those people in America who come up to you on corners and ask for spare change were once just people like me – respectable citizens who had led normal lives and ended up destitute, homeless and in need of constant small

change for a payphone somewhere. "I can give you the number if you'd like," the lady offered. "Really? Oh, yes please."

She rattled off a number, clearly from memory. It was nothing like the number – not even remotely like the number – I had been given by AT&T. I thanked her profusely.

"No problem," she said. "It happens all the time."

"What, they give you number when people ask for Dartmouth Mini-Coach?"

"All the time. Was it AT&T you used?"

"Yes."

"Thought so," she said simply. I thanked her again. "It's been my pleasure. And hey – don't forget to give that phone a really good pounding before you leave."

She didn't say that, of course. She didn't need to.

I had to wait four hours for the next mini-coach. But it could have been worse, I had plenty to read.

'Notes from a Big Country' is published by Doubleday at £16.99



Chris Moon with his mother, Doreen Moon: 'My lower leg's blown off, right hand's been amputated. I'll be fine'

Glynn Griffiths

I never think, 'what if...?'

A FAMILY AFFAIR

In 1995 Chris Moon, now aged 36, was clearing mines in Cambodia for the Halo Trust when he was kidnapped by the Khmer Rouge. He survived. In 1995, when clearing mines in Mozambique, he was blown up by a mine. He lost his lower right leg and arm. Since then he has run more than 20 marathons including the Trans Sahara 240km race – the world's toughest race – all for charity. This week his autobiography, *One Step Beyond* (Macmillan, £16.99), is published. Doreen Moon, Chris's mother, aged 72, was recently widowed. She is a retired education clerk and lives in Wiltshire.

I'd done my last inspection and I was walking back down the lane to leave. What was strange was, I remember feeling that something evil and vile was rushing towards me, and I turned round and took three steps and – bang!

The next thing, I was looking at my right hand. I could see that it was sort of closed and bloody, but I could move it. Then I thought, there's only one logical explanation for this blast; I must have trodden on something that the de-miners didn't find in the clear lane. I was really surprised at that point, 'cause it was so hard to believe that the previous day the whole team had been running up and down that lane: you'd have thought that someone would have put their foot on it.

Then I turned over and thought, "prepare yourself, your lower leg will be missing." I knew it had to be, because I couldn't feel anything, and I looked down and sure enough it was missing, and there was just a finger of yellow bone and ragged flesh.

I shouted my casualty report to my back-up team on the road, but I wanted to know what had injured me, so I shuffled back to the hole, which wasn't far to go. It was a very deep hole. That's the thing that surprised me – how deep the hole was.

I knew that I'd have about a minute and a half before the pain set in, because the body produces endorphins so you don't feel anything for the first minute or so. I knew that to have these injuries was really life-threatening and I can remember thinking, well, do I regret any of this? And the answer was no.

Then the de-miners started to come in and they put me into the helicopter. We were just very lucky that an agency in the area had a helicopter, and that we had radio frequency.

I asked them not to give me morphine.

I was afraid that it would reduce my ability to concentrate, and I wouldn't be able to control my environment. The worst thing was feeling that I was dying, knowing there wasn't anything I could do about it, but I certainly wasn't going to moan. I can remember thinking, "I've done the very best I could; I believe I'm dying, but I'm not giving up." I couldn't give up. That's the worst failure – not trying your best – but undoubtedly it would have been much, much easier just to go to sleep.

They flew me to hospital and from there I was airlifted to Johannesburg. Colin Mitchell, my boss, who's an amazing man, rang my parents and said, "Chris has been injured; we don't know how bad he is. As soon as we know we'll let you know." And they just had to wait.

The next day I rang them and just told them exactly what happened: "I was walking in a cleared area. My lower leg's blown off, right hand's been amputated. I'll be fine. I'm just going to stay here and get better." I said to my mum, "Look, I really don't want anyone to come out. I'm in a good hospital; all I can do now is just lie here and get better." I spoke to them every day and we'd have a bit of a laugh, so they knew I was OK. It was senseless anyone coming out.

I don't resent anything and I don't feel bitter in any way, because basically life's

great and life's what we make it. I decided I'd never think, "what if...?" Because the fact is, I can do nothing about it. The other thing was never ever to say, "why me?" Because "why me?" is such a loser's attitude, and that's really assuming the role of victim. I was incredibly independent, and I have to accept help now, and that makes life much richer. I really think that's one thing that's been good for me. Shut happens. The important thing is not to let it stick.

Doreen We weren't really worried when Chris said he was going to work for the Halo Trust. We knew he'd play it by the book. He took his own safety and the safety of his men as paramount. I don't think we were ever really worried, just proud of him, proud that he would want to do such a humanitarian job.

Then one evening in March 1995 Colin Mitchell, who was Chris's boss and head of the Halo Trust, telephoned. He said that Chris had had an accident in the minefield – they didn't know how it had happened, as he'd been working in a cleared area – and that it was serious; so serious that he hoped he would reach the hospital alive.

Looking back I can remember thinking "Please God, let him live." But, strangely, I was very calm. I didn't panic at all. Colin

said Chris was being airlifted to Johannesburg and that he would ring me as soon as the plane landed. And he did. He said that Chris had arrived at the hospital, that he was stable, that he'd lost a leg, and that his hand was badly damaged. Later they had to amputate it.

I can remember thinking, "I can't believe we went through all that terrible worry with the kidnapping, only for this to happen."

In fact the kidnapping caused us no panic and worry than this did, because then we hadn't known where he was or what was happening. At least with this we knew what was going on.

And, of course, I knew my son. I knew he was fit. He was the fittest person I'd ever met, so I thought physically he would be able to cope, and I also knew that he was very strong mentally, and that he would cope mentally too. And sure enough at 6am the next morning Chris rang from his bed and he just sounded like his usual self: "Hi Mum, don't worry about me, I'm fine. I won't be able to run for a bit. Don't come out to see me, there's no point."

The South Africa surgeon and doctors were very kind. Chris had to have four more amputations on his leg – salami chops he called them. They rang me to tell me what was happening. One day they rang to say he was out of danger, out of the trauma unit. At that point we lived again. Until then we'd

felt as though our lives had been on hold. Funny enough it didn't enter my head to go to South Africa to visit him, and I know people thought that was strange, but I knew my son and he wouldn't have wanted me to go, and yet I don't think you'd ever find a mother and son closer.

I knew that once the recovery period was started, he'd be looking forward to making a new life, and I thought he'd be absolutely OK. We notched up lot of phone calls, but it was normal chat. We'd always chatted on the phone and this was no different.

I spoke to the hospital psychiatrist and asked him about shock; what was Chris's mental state? And he said that Chris was as sane as he or I was. Perhaps I should have been worried at that point!

As soon as he got to Roehampton Hospital his sister, father and I rushed off to see him. None of us was sad, no one was saying "oh dear, this is terrible". Chris showed us his stumps – exhibit 1 and exhibit 2, and we were fine, but we were a positive family. We've never viewed ourselves as losers. We've always been close, and none of us has ever been pessimistic.

Chris always did charity work – even as a boy he had a social conscience. That was something his father and I instilled in him. For years I was a guide, and then I ran the village youth club, and I was a volunteer at the local spastics society and Chris used to come with me. He's always been a caring person; and right was right, and wrong was wrong. He's not someone who believes in fudges.

Chris is not a victim. He chose to do that work and accepts that, and I think the same. All the accident did to Chris was make him more of what he was before, so it accentuated his good points. I hope he doesn't do anything else to cause me grief!

INTERVIEWS BY
GINA ROZNER

Nicking a little kudos

The pitfalls of sharing a name with someone famous. By Nick Baker
(no, not that one)

I'M GOING to try to be positive about this. After all, a woman from Hull who refers to herself as "Horny" wants to meet me, and 12-year-old Matthew from Essex is keen for us to get together to talk stick insects, and for me to give him tips about how to become a TV presenter.

OK Matthew – tip one: Find a good name. Something simple. Not too many syllables. Easy to spell. Like – well, Nick Baker. Only you can't have that, Matt, because someone else has got it.

The thing that irritates me is that he's good, my namesake, Nick Baker is straight, unaffected, not too cuddly, not too formal. And he knows what he's talking about. Crocodiles, insects, big cats, small dogs. My kids love him doing *The Really Wild Show* on BBC TV.

Everyone knows Nick Baker the wildlife man. Maybe my problem is that I don't specialise. I spread myself too thin. TV documentaries about telephones; radio programmes about anything from firearms to hypnotists. Magazine articles on studs in Belgium and Orson Welles in Vienna. I have written kids' books, and articles on children and the media. I run a small production company with a bit of broadcasting and writing on the side. I'm a media misnomer, maybe, but I was here first. I've got a 15-year start, at least. And now I have people saying: "I heard you talking about cockroaches the other morning on Radio 4..."

If we were actors, of course, things would be different. Equity's rules state that every member has to have a different name. Harry H. Corbett, the actor who played Steptoe's son, had to add that "H" to distance himself from Sooty's partner.

The BBC can't see a problem. A senior radio executive told me that he would be referred to as "the wildlife expert Nick Baker" on the air. It isn't happening. They still tolerate two of us.

There have been others. There's a rather good cartoonist with our name. And in one year I came across memorials to two dead ones, one on a park bench in the US, the other an announcement outside the church on Eel Pie Island on the Thames. Hey – have you thought of this, Nick Baker? When I die, people will think it's you. Think of the effect among your fans. The great croc-cuddler, snatched before his time. If that is, I insist on keeping my name.

I started by saying I'll be positive. So, Nick Baker: I hereby publicly give you my name. No strings. But if any cheques come your way meant for me, do the decent thing. In return, I'll forward all the Horny from Hull stuff. And me? From now on, I want to be known as Jenni H Murray.



My Nemesis: the wrong Nick Baker

While much of the dance world seems to have entered the doldrums, the Ballet de l'Opéra is currently offering some of the most exhilarating dancing and choreography seen in decades. By John Percival

Ballet is alive and well and living in Paris



Left to right: William Forsythe's 'Pas/parts', danced by Stéphanie Rombert and Jean-Guillaume Bart; Isabelle Guerin in Angelin Preljocaj's 'Le Parc'; and Ghyslaine Reichert with Lionel Delanoë in 'Pas/parts'

Seen from London or New York, the future of ballet can look gloomy. Not much sign of good new choreographers to replace the outstanding generation who have died in recent years. But take the Eurostar to Paris, and the view looks brighter. The Ballet de l'Opéra, with a new programme by William Forsythe that includes two world premières, is offering the most exhilarating display of dancing I have seen in a long time.

At the same time, thanks to enjoying the use of two theatres, the company has re-mounted a work created for it five years ago by the French-Albanian choreographer Angelin Preljocaj, which I had not seen before. This, too, is gripping and original. With further premieres by Jiri Kylian and Roland Petit in the pipeline, things are looking good.

Forsythe and Preljocaj, in very different ways, are both pushing forward the manner in which ballet can work. Forsythe's purpose (like Balanchine's before him) is to strengthen and extend technique, and to develop the spirit in which dancers approach their work. Speed, daring, endurance and flexibility are pushed to new extremes, and when once in while he makes the dancers slow down, this is certainly no rest cure.

The new *Woundwork I* is a case

in point. The "wound" in the title comes from wounding, not wounding; the work is a double duet piece and the dancers often tie themselves in knots around their partners. This is an adagio piece, and a highly involved one. You have to take in two different duets side by side. The first thing you notice, as they begin motionless with their backs to the audience, is that Stephen Calloway's costumes give the women tutu skirts that stick out stiffly on one side while the other flops down. This presages an off-kilter motif in the choreography that requires the dancers to bend, twist, drape themselves in pretzel shapes and walk almost in a waddle, yet always with a base in pure classic style.

Playing with classicism and its forms is a feature in the other creation, which Forsythe calls *Pas/parts*, alluding to the single dance phrase (*pas*) that he started from and the 20 separate sections he elaborated from it, all explosively different from each other and scattering into successive or overlapping solos, duets, trios, quartets and even a septet.

The cast comprises eight women and seven men, and characteristically Forsythe has chosen them from all levels within the troupe, deploying them for their various qualities rather than by rank. So a junior couple, Eleonora Abbagnato and Jérémie Belingard, have a couple of

dividual contributions are, however, the point of *Pas/parts* is the way they succeed each other in a breathtaking cumulative effect, contrast upon contrast, surprise upon surprise, every fragment building up over the course of 35 minutes until the mass finale that has the audience roaring its delight. Not many companies and not many choreographers could hope for such a hit.

Some people might have

Preljocaj's *Le Parc* at the Opéra Bastille. This shows a completely new way of making a three-act dramatic ballet. There is none of that silly realistic acting or heavy mime (at least, only once, for comic effect); there is no literal story - can you imagine what a relief this is after all those long dreary ballets that ploddingly transpose a well-known play, novel or fragment of history? Instead, Preljocaj evokes a part of France's cultural heritage: the formality of dress, behaviour, literature and landscape that marked its 17th and 18th centuries. To the apt choice of some of Mozart's most memorable and heart-torn music, groups of men and women engage in games and confrontations that enable them surreptitiously to hint at underlying emotions. These are sometimes seen only in a woman fainting, sometimes implied in a game of musical chairs, or snatched at during hide-and-seek among the trees.

Among this activity, two dancers become apparent as holding back a little from the others. A mutual desire obviously exists, but she wards off all his approaches until a group of modern-dress gardeners, anxious to propagate their charges, push her but by bit towards compliances. The drama of the ballet consists in wondering how this tense, withheld relationship will develop. And the climax, when it comes, is terrific. The woman at last approaches and

There is no mistaking a real star when you see one, and whenever the brilliant young leading man Nicholas Le Riche is on stage, I defy anyone to take their eyes off him

Even under the more democratic approach, however, there is no mistaking a real star when you see one, and whenever the brilliant young leading man Nicholas Le Riche is on stage, I defy anyone to take their eyes off him. Forsythe has found a new, witty quality in him, as he partners his wife Clairemarie Osta and she tries to wriggle out of his grasp even while lifted high; but you see also his more serious power much of the time, and he has a long solo that accelerates into an almost incredible tornado of movement around the stage.

Distinguished as many of the in-

reservations about the score (typed by Forsythe's frequent collaborator Thom Willems, but undeniably he provides a pulse that unifies the drive of the dance) all the time. And in another of the ballets given, *The Vertiginous Thrill of Excitement*, the choreographer turns to a Schubert allegro from *Symphonie No 8* for a smilingly dancing display of straight virtuosity, which the dancers tackle at speed. All this is and the more familiar in the *Allegro*. *Somewhat Elevated*, powerfully danced on the huge stage of the Palais Garnier, makes an amazing performance.

Amazing is the word, too, for

Smash bang wallop

POP
IAN DURY AND THE
BLOCKHEADS
BLACKHEATH CONCERT HALL
LONDON

THERE COMES a time in every man's life when he must make the fateful decision - another night down the booze, or a dinner party at home with a select few friends. But, occasionally, you can keep the whole family happy by taking them to a show by the patron saint of geezers, Lord Upminster himself, Ian Dury.

So a good-humoured crowd - after all, geezers with the missus in tow are always on their best behaviour - were thrilled, amused and entertained by Dury and his loyal Blockheads, longer-serving than the Arsenal back four but considerably more skilful.

Dury's well-publicised struggle with cancer - last year Bob Geldof even prematurely announced his death on a London radio station - has overshadowed his latest work. But this unheralded father of Britpop - what is Blur's *Parklife* but a funk-free nod to the man's style? - is enjoying a deserved resurgence. Last year's *Mr Love & Pains* is his finest record in two decades, making up half of tonight's set, and is in no way inferior to old favourites such as *What A Waste* and *Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick*. His lyrical gift remains untarnished, as new songs such as "Jack Shit George", which addresses mortality by entreating the young to consider their future without ever stooping to patronise, or the hilarious, rueful tribute to eating away a lifelong hangover "Heavy Living" ("heavy sausage is the price you pay when you're on a corridor") clearly show.

However, this is no mere poetry reading with musical accompaniment. The Blockheads, including the old core of guitarists Chas Jankel and John Turnbull, Mickey Gallagher on piano, and Norman Watt-Roy, looking strangely like Robert Lindsay in some Dickens adaptation, on the old "faith and grace", or, bass, are superb, and their unique blend of jazz, funk and music-hall is apparently effortless.

Dylan Howe is a fantastic substitute for the sadly missed Charley Charles behind the kit, while Dury's rasp is as filthy as ever. Not unlike "Bed O'Roses No 9" does he tire, yet the band can always lift the level.

The new "Mash It Up Harry", with its absurd "We're on our way to Wembley" coda, and the stomping "Tinnerant Child", telling the long-running story of "Police V Travellers", are well-received. "Sweet Gene Vincent" and the inevitable "Sex and Drugs and Rock'n'Roll" bring the house down. The world's oldest stage invader ambles up and gives Dury a curiously appropriate cuddle. Clearly, reports of his demise have been greatly exaggerated.

STEVE JELBERT

THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

- Today** On this day in 1914 all hell was let loose in the West End when George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* opened: as Eliza Doolittle, Shaw's own fair lady Mrs Patrick Campbell had to utter the words "not bloody likely".
- Tomorrow** *The Messiah* had its first performance in 1742, in Dublin. The tradition of the audience standing up for the Hallelujah Chorus began later with an enthusiastic George II.
- Wednesday** The first commercial film show was on a "Kinetoscope" or peepshow device in New York in 1894; titles included *Horse Shoeing*, *Barber Shop* and the controversial mini-epic *Cock Fight*.
- Thursday** The *Titanic* went down in 1912, leading to disastrous loss of life and, 86 years later, a disastrous awarding of Oscars. In 1925 Sir James Barrie made Christmas come early to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital; even
- better than being a blood donor, he gave the hospital the royalties from *Peter Pan*.
- Friday** The dramatist Aphra Behn died in 1689. According to Virginia Woolf, she was the first Englishwoman to make a living by writing, although she also moonlighted as a spy for Charles II.
- Goya died in 1828; an expert in death studies, he referred to the series of his paintings which included *Madhouse*, *Procession of Flagellants* and *Tribunal of the Inquisition*, as "popular diversions".
- Saturday** The summertime blues came early for the classic rocker Eddie Cochran, when he was killed in a car accident during his 1960 tour of Britain.
- Sunday** The Italian tenor Enrico Caruso was in San Francisco to sing in *Carmen*, when the 1906 earthquake turned 28,000 buildings into rubble.

JONATHAN SALE

It's a mad world, my masters

THEATRE
THE COLONEL BIRD
THE GATE
LONDON

FOR THOSE of us who take the view that Nato's antics in the past couple of weeks have amounted to a shameful farce, *The Colonel Bird* by the Bulgarian author Hristo Boytchev comes as a kind of elating therapy. The winner of the British Council's International New Playwriting Award in 1997, this comedy makes a timely debut here in Rupert Gould's exuberant staging at The Gate.

The author reveals in a programme note that the inspiration for the piece came from a weird personal experience. Driving in the mountains near Serbia he chanced upon what he took to be a military camp with about 40 men in uniform, evidently Serb soldiers from Bosnia. He was disabused

of this assumption when he was told to "fuck off" in his own language, and noticed a sign indicating that this was the Clinic of the Forty Holy Martyrs. Boytchev has developed this wonderful image of a mad, unbalanced state within a state into a telling comedy about harmony, idealism and touchingly misplaced reverence for and faith in the institutions of Nato and the United Nations. The piece is set in an insane asylum housed in a bombed-out and severely isolated

Bulgarian monastery. The familiar idea of a madhouse run by people who are morearking than the inmates is given a neat twist here. The straight-seeming newly arrived "doctor" Jonathan Aris turns out to be a secret heroin addict who has boned up on psychological illnesses just so that he can pose as a professional and have permanent access to morphine. Every evening, the hilariously acted patients gather to watch the news on a television set that can't receive sound. Instead, amazingly topical-sounding reports about Nato convoys and border disputes and humanitarian aid are invented on the spot by another of the inmates, a lanky trainee actor (the excellent Tobias Menzies) who

struggles to disguise the hefty handicap to his stage career (the character is stone deaf) by anxiously lip-reading.

Then, this potty little community is descended on by Damian Myerscough's colonel - a fierce, quixotic visionary schizophrenic who, by a sort of homeopathy, licks the men into a ship-shape fighting unit. There is much play over where true sanity resides: here or in the outer world. The colonel decides that they must join Nato and that to do so, they need to declare the territory they are occupying a separate Balkan country. A madcap scheme of sending messages to European institutions by bird results in the daft yet haunting picture of the

company scanning the skies for the awaited reply. And finally, after a millennial march across Europe, the unit is seen still clinging to a pathetic hopefulness and still in training, but now forced to rattle the begging-bowl outside the cathedral in Strasbourg.

Bumping into the author in the pub downstairs afterwards, I enquired whether he has altered any of the material in the light of the disaster in Kosovo. Boytchev energetically denied this. Understandably not wanting to limit the applicability of his play, he argued that the picture it presents will always be relevant - a position with which we would not presume to quarrel.

PAUL TAYLOR

The long goodbye to Linda McCartney

POP
A CONCERT FOR LINDA
ROYAL ALBERT HALL
LONDON

celebration of the life of Linda McCartney, was put together by Chrissie Hynde - members of The Pretenders act as house band for the evening - and Carla Lane, the sitcom writer.

Accordingly, the screens in the backdrop feature McCartney's photography, and the show is at pains to emphasise her pet concerns: it started with Chrissie Hynde and Johnny Marr performing The Smiths' "Meat Is

Murder", and at least two of the performers - Izzard and Sinead O'Connor - felt obliged to confess that they are not vegetarians (O'Connor who went on to announce that she has been trained as a medium, dedicated a song to Princess Diana, and essayed a joke about the fidelity of Neil Finn's wife that elicited bemusement from Finn and a horrified silence from the audience, interrupted only by the distant clanging of church bells and the hooting of owls in the rafters).

The star names emerged in the second half. Marianne Faithfull, Elvis Costello (whose twitchy, feral version of Nick Lowe's "Peace Love And

Understanding" was the evening's clear highlight), the aforementioned George Michael and, to predictable hysteria, Paul McCartney, who began his contribution by saying he initially doubted enough people would be interested to justify the event, and singing Ricky Nelson's "Lonesome Town".

The evening ended with all hands on deck and the entire Albert Hall standing and singing along to "All My Loving" and "Let It Be" at a volume sufficient to drown out any noise being made on the stage; a spontaneous karaoke choir, in fact.

ANDREW MUELLER

Marlowe and Shakespeare's original Elizabethan playhouse has been given a hi-tech restoration. By Nonie Niesewand

The new Rose blooms at last

Four centuries after London's first Elizabethan playhouse closed, the Rose Theatre is to bloom again. Not as a theatre but with its foundations, rubble ramparts, floorboards, Tudor-style pillars, posts and balustrades to the minstrel's galleries rising up in a ghostly white light from the real-life site of an archaeological dig.

This isn't floodlighting but fluorescent light, used to create the 3D illusion of the Rose rising up out of the basement of the Sevenoaks office block in Southwark it now inhabits. This will-o'-the-wisp Elizabethan theatre, created by set designer Bill Dudley, has a 20-minute sound and light show playing on glass screens in front of the foundations.

Try as they might, archaeologists have a tough job showing us that what they do is exciting. Patient trowel work uncovering ancient architecture ends up looking like a slag heap. The Rose theatre may be the first – and possibly last – Elizabethan playhouse buried in the swampy banks of the Thames, but today it looks like the moonshine the Clangers inhabited, a lumpy pudding-mix under a foot of water to keep the alluvial soil moist, lest centuries-old timber drains brought to the surface should just crumble like dust.

After centuries buried under clay and peat, the Rose was discovered in 1989 on the site of a proposed carpark. Actors protested in the jaws of JCB diggers to save the theatre from being cemented, but Siefert's building went up in 13 storeys over it, with a carefully constructed basement to protect the Rose without digging load-bearing piles into its foundations. The offending office block was completed in 1989, towards the end of the Eighties property boom, and stood empty for four years, but now its tenants are the Health and Safety Commission.

The Rose needs funds to stabilise the marshy soil and preserve the timber parts. Visitors to the light-show resurrection will be charged £3 a head, towards a goal of £5m in the next two years. The Rose is hoping to attract some of the visitors from the other Elizabethan theatre rebuilt nearby, the Globe. The restoration work involves removing the concrete membrane that covers the foundations and the water, and using a spray-wax system to preserve the timber. The remains have not all been excavated yet because a sliver of the playhouse circle (about one third of the total area) lies under the Loodoo City Engineers depot. Boffins are hoping that Southwark Bridge excavations in the early 19th century didn't damage that bit.

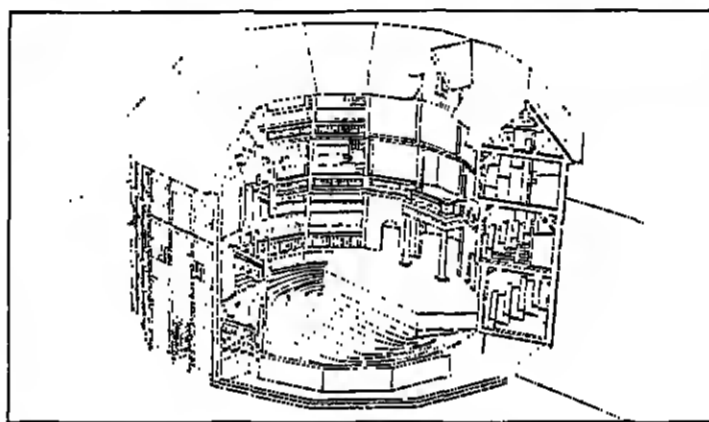
Titus Andronicus and Henry VI played in this theatre. All Marlowe's first nights were held under a roof supported by just two posts across the stage while the audience swayed in the open air. Three thousand gathered regularly around the little stage, so small that Edward Alleyn closed it in 1606 – just seven years after it had opened.

We know from Shakespeare in Love that the Rose was as pretty as a picture in wattle and daub. Dame Judi Dench liked it so much that she bought the stage sets from Shepperton studios, even though they're just cardboard cut-outs with exteriors like billboards. She hopes to build them into an acting school in Islington on the site of the old Collins Music Hall.

The original Rose had "attiring rooms" for actors backstage, and three-tiered galleries on either side of the open stage. "Not as fold-rolled as the Inigo Jones look that Shepperton gave the theatre front," says Clare Graham, theatre project manager in charge of getting the Rose running as a tourist attraction. The version of the Rose created for the film would never have fitted on the real-life site. Besides, the foundations of an historic site are the equivalent of a Grade I-listed



Inside the Rose, above, fluorescence and strategically placed glass screens create a sound-and-light show. Below, the theatre's structure *Kalpesh Lathigra*



When Bill Dudley began researching the site of the Rose Theatre, he discovered there had been 67 brothels there – one every couple of yards

building, so you can't mock up a film-set replica or build anything substantial around it. They couldn't have bought the film set for use as an adjunct to the Globe theatre; the structure is too tall for the undercroft. Besides, the mechanics of turning a stage set for films into a building are more complex. They need lavatories, disabled access, entrances, shops and restaurants, dressing rooms.

To bring this hybrid Rose to life, the Trust turned to the grand illusionist, set designer Bill Dudley. He likes the challenge of giving unprepossessing spaces an emotional charge.

When Dudley staged a play on the First World War in a derelict dockyard in Glasgow, the audience were strapped into fairground seats while actors slithered in and out of trenches cut into the floor. Scenes were shifted while dry ice rolled out of these trenches like gas and gun fire. In the same space, Dudley staged *The Ship* with Glaswegian actors actually launching a ship into the Clyde. There wasn't a dry eye in the place.

So Bill Dudley wasn't fazed by having to stage a show inside a theatre that isn't exactly a theatre

but more of a ruin covered by a preservation order in the basement of an office block. To his eyes, the flooding is a "magic pond". Dim daylight filtered through tall, arrow-slit windows makes it "like a cathedral, or a castle". He thought of Excalibur arising from the lake and created the illusion of the Rose arising from its ruins. To him, the basement space is "dramatic, the biggest and deepest structural interior in Europe".

The best magic never lets on how it's done, but a preview of the show

reveals its secrets. Laid all over the ring of the Rose theatre foundations are electro-luminescent pads like electric blankets made of 14 different layers of plastic, all with their own underwater leads plugged into a control box, insulated so that when Chris Smith switches on the show on 14 April "it doesn't go bang," in the words of Dorian Kelly, sparks-magician from Illuminati, the company working on the lights. The fluorescent lights give off an eerie white glow, shining through acetate film. You won't see this film in the

murky waters, but linked with magic marker, it shows stones and floorboards, ramparts and timber drains, traced exactly to a millimetre from the foundations below. Light shining through these crudely inked but precise shapes makes 3D structures loom out of the water.

"Not the real thing like the Globe next door," Bill Dudley says, "but near as dammit. The whole point of the exhibition is that it is underwater. My brief was to give the public some idea of what lies beneath it. You'll never see the real Rose, since

it lies under listed buildings that are protected. But archaeology makes the building very accessible. On site I get quite emotional. I'm in contact with the history of London and it's a real labour of love."

Two big glass screens slanted above the galleries beam out a sound-and-light show on the history of the Rose and its excavations against the eerily lit backdrop of the foundations. When Dudley began researching the site, he discovered there had been 67 brothels there, one every couple of yards. Snatches of bawdy songs ring out, and film clips from *Shakespeare in Love* since what he calls the "miraculous reconstruction of the Rose" informed filmmakers on the architecture of Elizabethan playhouses.

In the 1990s, Southwark was the biggest entry into Europe. There are parallels in the 1990s with people who are attracted to London in search of work.

Architects often borrow theatrical devices, but they still have to make the shelter substantial. Bill Dudley's show is in direct response to the site. He couldn't build on the Grade I-listed monument even if he tried. This exhibition serves to remind people of its existence.

So you want to play the regeneration game?

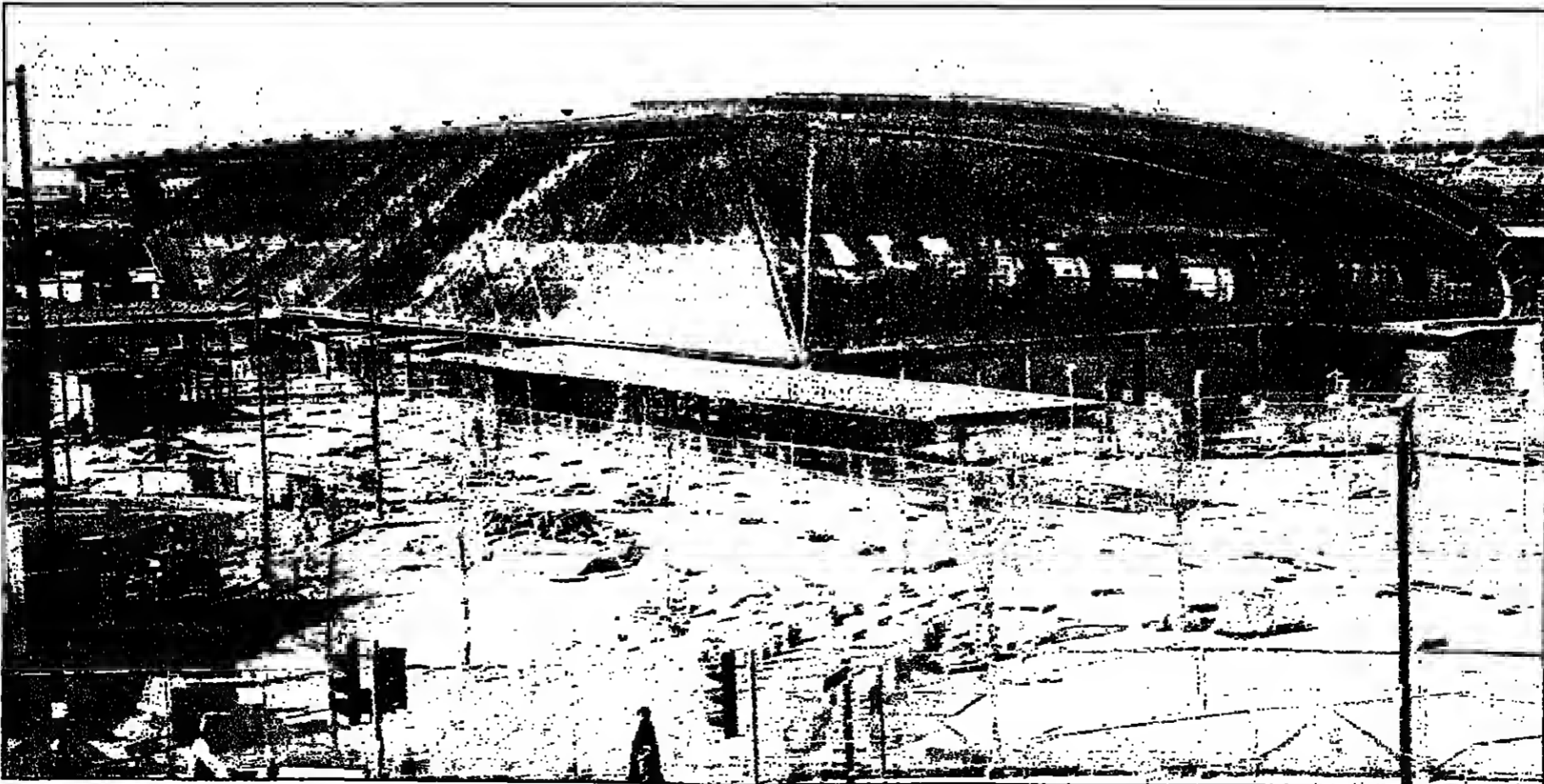
The prospect of developing 1,200 acres of east London – Europe's largest brownfield site – has really whet architects' appetites. By Nonie Niesewand

EMPIRE-BUILDING COMPUTER games are known as "God games" in the States. As the 8 million Sim City players know, playing God begins with colonising a site. Flat or mountainous, inland or seaside, different areas give different degrees of difficulty. Then you position toxic waste dumps, power grids, roads, railways, airports, docks, cemeteries. You control the workforce and where they live, the green spaces, taxation, emergency services.

London's new mayor will have a chance to play Sim City for real, on 1,200 acres stretching across the Lea valley in east London, from Stratford to Thameside, opposite the Millennium Dome. It is Europe's largest "brown-field site". The borough of Newham awarded responsibility for the masterplan to a Barcelona-named architectural team, MBM, which won a competition called the Arc of Opportunity – a pretty accurate description of the layout of the winning scheme. How it is implemented and funded will be first on the agenda for the mayor.

Since the Government and the Urban Task Force, headed by Lord Rogers, defined brown-field development as the solution to the erosion of the countryside, escalating land values have made luxury developments the only viable option for this valuable land. Will poorer, more diverse communities be pushed out? If so, where will they go? Potentially, this east London development is a minefield for the new mayor, especially as MBM have planned for 18,000 one- and two-bedroom homes to comply with changing British demographics.

And unlike Sim City, the site is not virgin territory to colonise. MBM inherited some horrors: decaying docks, haulage yards and wastelands



Chris Wilkinson's glass-and-steel structure at Stratford station in east London, where expansion has improved the area's railway links *Kalpesh Lathigra*

that will have to be reclaimed and replanted. Pictures of herons, eels, squirrels and skylarks decorate the pages of a brochure on natural habitat. New trees in circles are to be planted on the meridian running through Newham from Greenwich.

Clean water is a priority: "excessive discharges" from the Abbey Mills sewers, which currently run

straight into the river, will be purified. Areas such as Canning Town, Stratford, Three Mills and Lower Lea Thameside will have their pearly-green cores developed in many different architectural styles. Streets are to be called "backbones", an 80-hectare "wet square" with a fountain is planned for the area north of the Stratford station complex, to contain

flood waters. A huge flyover at the heart of the riverfront site will be wiped out but the Blackwall Tunnel will remain. The river Lea, which meanders through the site, is to be enhanced by reclaiming waterways and slicing through a canal.

Zoom in tight on the aerial view and you see the reason for the expansion all along the river Lea: rail

links. Chris Wilkinson's giant glass-and-steel ribcage of a rail terminus in Stratford has rail lines springing like arteries from its heart.

All four short-listed schemes – from Ove Arup, Pringle Richards Sharratt and Patel Taylor, as well as the winner from MBM – acknowledge the terminus's handsome presence in the landscape.

Ove Arup broke down an aerial view of the site into abstract cluster patterns, but the judges could not spot any continuity with the surrounding fabric.

Pringle Richards Sharratt's novel idea was to sheath the A13 in a glass tunnel so that birdsong could be heard above the traffic, a solution one of the judges, Ricky Burdett, de-

scribed as "propylactic" – masking a problem rather than solving it.

Patel Taylor's pastel watercolours of pastoral scenes were broken up by a rather obvious insertion of the Barcelona housing grid pattern along the river Lea. However, MBM already had experience of brown-field redevelopment, having built the Olympic Village at the Games at Barcelona in 1992 and in the process turned industrial wasteland into popular downtown housing.

Now the Architecture Foundation is taking its road show to Newham. On 16 April Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport and MP for East Ham, will open the show at the Stratford Picture House. Residents are invited to register their vote and use the road show beacon, a collection of BT payphones and videos, to gather and transmit ideas.

Lord Rogers says that, as architect of the Montevetro Thameside block of apartments, which has a £4m price tag on a penthouse, he is only too aware of the dangers of unfettered market forces. "If you say to developers that they have to compete for a piece of land, then they have to get the maximum return for their money. Maximum return means luxury apartments. Luxury flats do not make a city on their own – you have to have a mix. You need regulations to make sure that you have social housing together with private housing."

The leader of Southwark Council, Niall Duffy, is honest about the pressures. He has 50,000 council tenants. "It would be remiss of my officers not to tell me when there's a piece of land that's worth some money. And if this money were generated, I could refurbish upwards of 2,000 properties. Tough choices, but I've got those options."

NETWORK



Peter Molyneux: 'Computer games are an independent form of entertainment; they don't fit snugly into films' Glynn Griffiths

An audience with the games master

This week, Peter Molyneux will be previewing his latest computer game, 'Black and White', at Bafta. He talks to Jennifer Rodger about the convergence of films and gaming

The red-brick building in Surrey Research Park is deceptively bland. But in a small section of this sprawling estate lies Lionhead Studios, a computer game design company that probably accounts for more intelligence per square mile than is to be found in the whole of the surrounding Guildford area. And perhaps beyond.

"The people involved in making a computer game nowadays have to be just amazingly clever," says Peter Molyneux, Lionhead's founder, brimming with paternal pride. When I meet him later on, it's clear that this is true about more than a few of Lionhead's employees.

Molyneux is no intellectual slouch either. Regarded as the grand master of the British computer games industry, he has been designing them since the early Eighties. In 1987 with Bullfrog - his company - he developed a whole new genre of gaming by developing Populous - the gamer as a deity ruling over his minions - which proved a popular alternative to the shoot 'em up and adventure games. Populous spawned many imitators but remains one of the top 10 most successful computer games of all time. A decade later, Molyneux sold Bullfrog to Electronic Arts, making himself a millionaire and leaving as his legacy, Dungeon Keeper - EA's biggest-selling game ever.

A popular speaker at new media conferences - he was once billed above Bill Gates - Molyneux was

nevertheless surprised by an invitation 18 months ago from Bafta (the British Academy of Film and Television Arts), asking whether he would be part of the new Bafta Interactive Media Committee. The computer games industry being courted by the likes of Lord Putnam and Bafta would have been wishing thinking 10 years ago. Now, though, computer games and interactive media are considered to be an art form in their own right and have their own annual Bafta Interactive Entertainment Awards.

"Recognition by Bafta doesn't sound like a big thing," Molyneux says. "But sitting on their committee, you realise that it is a huge thing, and they take it very, very seriously." This was clearly the case when Molyneux chaired a Bafta Interactive event recently involving a panel of television producers, directors and special-effects artists who were asked to reflect on the topic: "When Games go to the Movies".

"I think Bafta's attitude is very much what the whole of the film industry's attitude is: they know that the computer game industry will - in some form - be a real entertainment option in the future. The big problem is that people who work in film are deeply, deeply scared of, or uneducated about, the computer game industry."

However, they will be able to learn from the master on Wednesday night, when the debut game from Lionhead, *Black and White*, will get its first public showing at Bafta, with Molyneux explaining the different stages of developing a game.

His game will no doubt be of interest to other Bafta members. After all, movie companies are now making films out of games, rather than the other way around. Film versions of Doom, Tomb Raider, Duke Nukem and Ridge Racer are all due for release this year.

"It's mainly because of Lara Croft," says Molyneux, explaining just how the tables have turned in the five years since the games industry - and the buying public with it - started going crazy for anything with a movie licence attached.

"Up until Lara," he points out, "we were playing with plumbars and hedgehogs. All of a sudden the gaming industry found this weird thing called sex."

Will such game-to-film projects share a similar creative nadir with the Batman franchise? "Once Hollywood has used up all our properties, then that's it," Molyneux believes. "Computer games are an independent form of entertainment; they don't fit snugly into films." And he has a point: interactivity is just one of the most obvious differences between going to see a movie and playing a computer game.

"How many really quality scripts does Hollywood come out with in a year? Can you imagine how much harder it would be to write an interactive script?"

Instead, Molyneux imagines that the games industry in the future will make games that have the home entertainment value of, say, colour television. But, as he openly admits, there are a number of changes the

industry must face: this is where the skill and insight from organisations like Bafta and people who work in the film industry come in.

"A lot of people say games are at the same stage as television was when it went from black and white to colour. I would argue that the games industry is still on the pier, a rotation machine showing *What The Butler Saw*," Molyneux says. "That is where we are in film terms. Compared with where we will be."

New consoles, such as the next generation PlayStation (coming in autumn 2000), will soon be able to make games that look almost like movies. "Which means using a lot of the skills you use to make a film to make a game," Molyneux claims.

"The most important challenge is emotion," he says, and adds to this the need to develop non-linear plots ("if it's an adventure game they solve this puzzle; a shoot 'em up, you shoot down this person"), mass-market appeal ("people hate losing, they really, really loathe it. If someone isn't a dedicated gamer they aren't going to do the same thing over and over again"), expense ("to draw an old-style character would have taken two days, and it now takes three months) and accessibility ("you have the same amount of time it makes to move from television station to station to convince people that your game is good").

The creative talent at Lionhead is enough to make you wide-eyed in amazement, never mind the dedication, and it seems entirely possible that Molyneux and his crew will solve these problems, with or without the help of the film industry. The most convincing evidence of which is *Black and White*, which is scheduled for a September release.

Imagine this: no long introduction, no icons, special options or text, but in its place an immediate window into *Black and White*'s green and pleasant land. While the visual qualities are stunning, it's the plot that is truly innovative. To put it simply: the gamer is a leader in charge of a host of communities, but is never shown. As you play, the game catalogues all your decisions and develops a virtual representation of your character, discovered through the way you move the mouse, how you teach your community, what moral code you live by...

Tapping into your moral codes is not so far removed from David Cronenberg's new Sci-Fi film, *eXistenZ*, in which a game taps into the deepest fears and desires of the players. In *Black and White*, if you are an evil leader, you will see your dark soul reflected back at you.

Or, as Molyneux puts it: "You invent the morality; you are not playing a character that someone else invented. Which is very, very different. And if you are in a bad mood one day, the game will play differently from when you are happy. It's Tamagotchi a million years on."

Peter Molyneux previews *Black and White* this Wednesday from 7pm to 9pm at Princess Anne Theatre, Bafta, 195 Piccadilly, London. Members free, non-members £7.50. For more information see the Bafta website (www.bafta.org)

A rethink about the Net



CHRIS GULKER
The Internet seemed like a good idea at the time. But now I'm not so sure

WHEN GUTENBERG'S press fired its first info salvo into an unsuspecting world, there were a few optimistic souls who saw it as a tool that would change things for the better.

Some 500 years later, many, myself included, have been of a not dissimilar opinion - that the Internet will make the world a better place.

Perhaps it's time for a rethink. After all, Gutenberg's first mission was to print the Bible, and it's hard to see how that could make the world worse. But, in many respects, the world did get worse on account of the printing press. Mean-spirited tomes could be published as easily as good ones. The fact that people had an inexpensive way to influence large groups of people was bound to create friction.

But at least one observer says that the vernacular Bible, printed in languages other than Latin, helped bring large, previously fractious groups together into what became nations, people sharing a common language. While that may seem like a good idea, nations eventually got around to coveting their neighbour's stuff, and pretty soon you had behaviour such as imperial expansion and global wars to add to humanity's misery.

The Church eventually caught on to the fact that vernacular Bibles were having unexpected consequences, and tried to ban them. When Europe was a largely illiterate place, the Catholic Church held great power, in part because it had a monopoly on information, kept in a code, Latin, that only the elite faithful could read and pass on to the masses.

It was like owning the only television network, and running commercials only for The One True Product.

The vernacular Bibles were a reason for more people to aspire to learn to read, which led to local opportunities to influence the masses.

Though books could be distributed locally pretty quickly, it took a while for word to get to Rome, and longer for the response to return.

While he was perhaps best known for his written missives, Martin Luther used the press particularly effectively to fly in the face of Rome's authority. Luther's published writings were so effective that for a time the King of France banned all books within his borders to make it harder for people to conceal Luther's proscribed texts in his Catholic realm.

That may have been a classic case of shooting the messenger, and an inanimate messenger at that, but Luther also exploited the press by actively founding schools to teach people, especially children, to read, to influence young minds with his version of the Word.

Since books also helped to accelerate and spread technology, they can share some of the blame for the misuse of said technology.

Gutenberg and those who followed probably didn't set out to make it easy to distribute plans for weapons, artillery tables and the like, but there were certainly unexpected consequences from the changes wrought by the invention of printing.

And so I have to wonder

whether this millennium's latest contribution to shifted paradigms, the Internet, won't nurture ill along with good.

I've often thought that children who grow up on a global network, e-mailing peers around the world, will be much less fearful and suspicious of other tribes.

Indeed, it seems as if the world has begun a shift to a place where national boundaries and ethnicities count less, and shared interests and ideas count more.

I've watched my teenage stepson engage in conversations with German children - and other kids from who knows where - in chat rooms or via e-mail because they liked the same sort of very loud music. Their conversations were much less about their respective countries and much more about MTV.

Certainly, hate sites are an unwelcome addition to the World Wide Web. Hateful people have always exploited whatever medium was handy - bathroom walls, for example - to spread their vile wars.

No great surprise, I guess, that they've found the Net. But the subject here is unintended consequences, and hate-mongers actively promote evil outcomes - there's nothing unintended or unexpected about their expression.

What sorts of things may there be lurking beyond the ken of generations raised with one-way publishing - print and broadcast - as the world goes to two-way networks? Lacking experience, we're probably missing some of the things, and those somethings may be pretty nasty.

We have already seen the sorts of antics that hackers can get up to. Some guy half a world away can type some code and name it after a topless dancer in a Florida bar, and suddenly I've got a big problem right here in my office or den.

Do you recall any Internet pundits forecasting the Melissa virus?

And the global network's millions of computers mean that the hackers can take advantage of some well-known maths to do really rotten things. Melissa tapped into geometric growth by getting every computer it infected to send an infection to 50 more, meaning that pretty soon the virus was actively being spread by computers at the rate of 50 times 50 times 50 times - you get the idea. Melissa evinces power that a Luther could only long for.

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Psst! Wanna buy a used operating system?

Microsoft said that DOS was dead, but now they've changed their minds.

By Charles Arthur

Microsoft, it has to be said, is not good at keeping its promises. Anybody with old copies of computer magazines can find fulsome promises from the corporation's executives that Windows NT Version 5 (since renamed Windows 2000) would be released by, oh, the end of 1998. Current forecasts are that it won't be available until 2000 – and there's still time for that date to slip.

Missing deadlines is one thing, but reversing strategy publicly announced by Bill Gates is another. Yet that is what Steve Ballmer, Microsoft's president, did last week by announcing that in 2000 there will be a new version of Windows 98 – still based on the creaking MS-DOS operating system.

That followed a similar announcement, made last Tuesday, that users would have to pay for a CD-ROM of bug fixes for Windows 98 – followed the next day by a "clarification" that, in fact, the bug fixes would be free (and available over the Web), but that the CD-ROM would contain updated drivers and new software, and so cost money.

Faced with this, you may wonder whether Microsoft's left and right hands (and its two left feet) know what they are doing. But there is a common thread. Microsoft is so enormously profitable – with net profit margins of more than 30 per cent on sales (most companies manage 10 per cent) – that it needs a con-



Bill Gates and Steve Ballmer: does Microsoft's left hand know what the right hand is doing?

Jeff Christensen

tinuous stream of revenues from old products just to stay still. With Windows NT's receding like the horizon, it needs something else: something old.

Why should MS-DOS form part of that? Because it is much easier to rejig the Windows 98 operating system than Windows NT. The former is intended for consumers, the latter for businesses that need something solid, and that will take Microsoft to task if it is not. The public holds no such leverage.

MS-DOS was Microsoft's first product, and even that was not its own. It paid \$50,000 for the rights to Q-DOS (for "Quick and Dirty Operating System") written in six weeks around April 1979 by a programmer at Seattle Computer Products who was trying to clone Digital Research's eight-bit CP/M operating system for Intel chips.

The Windows 98 or Windows 95 that you see on your machine today may look flashy, but, in truth, it is communicating with the hard drive

and processor by way of MS-DOS. Windows 98 was meant to be the last gasp of MS-DOS: after that the operating system would be rewritten wholesale, with a new "kernel" and interface to the chip. That's Windows NT.

Obviously, a consumers' version won't be ready next year. Hence Ballmer's announcement. Yet you have to wonder what, if anything, can possibly be squeezed out of top of Windows now. "New features," promised a Windows product man-

ager, which experienced users will interpret as new incompatibilities and bugs. Some people never learn, and happily for Microsoft, many of them buy its products.

Case in point: the CD-ROM (expected to cost \$30) due in the autumn will "upgrade" Windows 98 with bug fixes, new USB drivers and home networking capabilities, plus Internet Explorer 5.0. You might not see anything worth spending money on there, but Microsoft is sure many people will. And that's a promise.

BYTES ANDY OLDFIELD



GORDON EUBANKS, the chief executive officer of Symantec, is leaving the company after 15 years to join an Internet start-up firm, Oblix. Eubanks, who bought Symantec in 1984, is often credited with creating the market for utility software, and was the guiding light behind Symantec's growth into a company worth \$578m (£366m), with more than 2,000 employees. Key acquisitions, such as Peter Norton Computing, helped establish the company, with Norton Utilities becoming the market leader in diagnostic, utility and software protection.

Competition and legal battles have had their impact on the company's profitability of late, but Eubanks is still widely seen as a charismatic Silicon Valley icon. The lawsuits, countersuits and lively shouting matches between Eubanks and Network Associates' Bill Larson are legendary. "In my younger days, he was a god of the software utility market," said Eva Chiang, chief technology officer for Trend Micro. Eubanks's new company, which deals in Internet management software, was founded in 1996, has 65 employees and \$14m in venture capital funding.

SOME OF the privacy groups petitioning the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) about the controversial processor serial number (PSN) built into the Pentium III chip last week prepared a supplementary document supporting their claim for an injunction against Intel distributing the technology.

The document argues that the chip technology, which lets web administrators track PCs across networks, makes it easy for stalkers to track and harass children, and that it will limit the free exchange of sensitive information. The document also claims that rather than adding extra security to enable e-commerce, the technology is open to "forgery" by hackers and that "online identity theft" and subsequent fraud is a real possibility. The groups originally filed a complaint on 26 February requesting an injunction, but the FTC, at an informal meeting two weeks later, asked for a supplemental document outlining the potential harm of the PSN.

UNIVERSAL MUSIC and BMG, two of the world's largest music distributors, said last week that they would launch an online music store to sell a catalogue of more than 250,000 CDs, including recordings on other labels, over the web. Using the

resources of the record companies, getmusic.com will also create online fan clubs based on particular genres and artists where BMG and Universal products will be sold.

BMG already has set up a rhythm & blues site called Peeps.com, Bugjuice.com for alternative bands, and Twangthis.com for country music. More sites will be added. Getmusic.com could enjoy an advantage over existing online retailers such as CDNow and Amazon.com because of the closer ties that exist between their parent companies and the major recording artists. Initially, getmusic.com, whose owners have been hostile to the MP3 format, has no plans to include downloadable music on its site.

AL GORE last week caused amusement, bewilderment and consternation among those in the technological know when he proudly announced that his website, AlGore2000.com, is "open source". On the site's front page, the vice-president said: "This is your website – it's open source – and I want you to help us build it." Open source, however, is not just a buzzword, it refers to a method of software development where programmers are free to view and modify source code, and post improved software back to the community. Eric Raymond, of the Open Source Initiative, said of Gore's pronouncement: "Right now, we're amused."

Dan Gillmor, writing in the *San Jose Mercury News*, also saw the funny side but went further: "This is one of several occasions in the past few weeks that you've done something like this," he said in an open letter to Gore.

"You did more damage [last month] when you claimed credit for creating the Internet. Given your generally solid understanding of technology that was beyond foolish. At least you backed off quickly from that gaffe. But if you want to win the votes of the lower-level people who actually create the technology, a sizeable contingent around here, you might consider a strategy other than flouting buzzwords."

An information freeway

Suddenly, it seems, everyone is offering free access to the Internet. But are these no-cost services too good to be true? By Stephen Pritchard

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IF THE best things in life are free, then the Internet must be a very good thing indeed. This month has seen a rash of companies offering free access to the Net. High-street banks, night-clubs, tabloid newspapers, stationers – it seems that everyone is becoming an Internet business.

The move to free Internet access began in earnest last year when Dixons launched Freeserve. Unlike most mainstream Internet companies, Freeserve charges no monthly subscription. Instead, it raises its money through advertising and e-commerce, and through a share of the money users pay to call its local-rate modem lines. Calls to technical support are at a premium rate. Freeserve has radically changed the Internet business in the UK. The service claims about a million users. Some have come from existing Internet service providers (ISPs). Others are new to the Net, attracted by Freeserve's success.

"Freeserve has demonstrated that cost is a big inhibitor to going online," says Mark Danby, Freeserve's general manager. "It is all to do with removing barriers, making it easy and cheap."

Other Internet companies have been forced to follow suit. BT has launched Clickfree, Tesco Net, the Internet arm of the supermarket giant, has abandoned its monthly charges. Most significantly Virgin Net, already an established ISP, is now a free service. At the same time, companies new to the Internet business are giving away accounts. Barclays Bank, The Sun and soon its red-top rival The Mirror, WH Smith, Eidos, publishers of Tomb Raider, and the Ministry of Sound night-club are well-known examples. It's easy to spot the link between the new Net companies: they are all well-known brands. They may know less about the Net than banking or groceries, but that hardly matters.

The free Internet services are not investing millions of pounds in building networks, installing servers and setting up racks of modems. Behind the scenes, almost all the new generation of ISPs are run by a handful of established names in the Internet and telecommunications world: BT, Cable and Wireless, WorldCom, Energis and NTL. All it takes today to set up an Internet service is to sign a deal with one of these companies, design a home page, and send out some CD-ROMs.

According to industry experts, companies launching a free Internet service have little to lose. They can even risk more by not setting one up, as their customers may

sign up with a rival company that is an ISP, and shop there instead.

"Companies setting up a free ISP service have few of the costs," suggests David Rowe, chairman of Easynet Group, which provides ISP packages for brands including Eidos. "Their costs are just marketing, distribution and their content. They don't have to worry about a network or technical issues. A company such as Eidos sends out millions of CDs in boxes already. The cost of another CD is minimal. They can leverage their existing cus-



Gotcha: The Sun's free Net offer

tomers base and achieve volume. When they achieve volume, they will receive revenue."

Phone-call revenue-sharing arrangements have made free ISPs possible. Internet users pay BT or a cable company for a local call each time they go online. Part of that money goes to the company operating the local-rate modem lines. The company operating the modem lines passes some revenue on to the service provider. In turn, they share a proportion of the income with the brand. This is only a fraction of a penny a minute, but, with the potential for millions of users, it could be an important source of cash.

Companies, though, have other reasons for offering Internet services. Capturing, or keeping, the hearts and minds of users is one. Eidos, for example, can use its ISP home page to promote Lara Croft's latest adventures and other computer games. Freeserve can promote offers at Dixons or PC World; the Ministry of Sound can publicise club nights, merchandise and CDs.

Banks have an even more attractive reason for becoming ISPs. Selling financial services over the Net is big business. An Internet transaction, such as paying a bill online, costs a bank a fraction of the cost of the same transaction in a branch.

If there is one company that knows about branding, it is Virgin. The switch to free Net access coincides with a new Internet strategy across the Virgin group. Virgin Net's challenge is to come out from the shadows of the Virgin brand.

"Our content is not just about Virgin," explains David Johnson, the company's commercial director. "There is actually very little about Virgin on the service." Instead, Virgin Net hopes its material, from partner publishers in areas ranging from health to music, or specially commissioned, will help it stand out among ISPs.

For Internet service providers with neither their own networks, nor a brand, the future looks less rosy. It is hard to justify charging £10 a month or more for a service that other companies give away. Rumours abound of problems going online with free ISPs, including busy lines and slow connections, but even users who pay subscriptions face similar problems.

Internet companies appear to face a stark choice over the next few months: they can go free, or move out of the consumer market entirely. Some have already done this: I-way abandoned consumer dial-up accounts last year, and Easynet has successfully moved away from the mass market and now concentrates on providing Internet access to businesses and to partners, who sell services on to the public. Companies such as Demon may choose to focus on small businesses and home-workers, who need an ISP that they can stay with as their business grows.

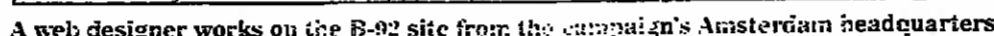
Internet companies with strong content, such as AOL, may opt to become portal sites. AOL recognised the value of portals when it purchased Netscape last year. Netcenter, Netscape's home page, is one of the most visited sites on the Web. In the UK and Europe, the Microsoft Network has already chosen the portal route. MSN continues to provide dial-up accounts, but the portal is where MSN is currently focusing its attentions.

"It is smart for us to offer access, but we do it in a non-strategic way," says Judy Gibbons, MSN's director. "There is a cost of providing Internet access, but it is a very low cost. It is more a question of whether you can afford not to do it."

A brave fight to save B-92

the re-empowerment campaign. In the past, many of these activists had some training for the Next Five Minutes Tactical Media Conference (www.dds.nl/~nsm) in Amsterdam, where discussions took place on how best to organise and run campaigns using the media. Plans were made for using the Internet to develop

In December 1996, B-92 supported political demonstrations against the Milosevic regime, in the process becoming the most listened-to station in Belgrade, before Serbian officials banned B-92's broadcasts. In re-



Then, on 2 April, 10 days after they confiscated the transmitter of B-92, Serbian police entered and sealed B-

Drazen Pantic, a Serbian mathematics professor who was awarded the Electronic Frontier Foundation's 1999 Pioneer Award (www.eff.org/promo/99pioneer.html) for his work developing OpenNet and other B-92

Donations to the Help B-92 campaign are being used to provide support and equipment for the continued broadcast of independent news in and from Serbia and Kosovo. For more details, see the Help B-92 website (helpB92.rs@all.nl) or e-mail helpB92@all.nl

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More face-refurnishing at this Belgian site, where even the graphically challenged may reinterpret the defining features of friends, colleagues and enemies from hundreds of preset design options. A range of characteristics can be customised on police Identikit likes, with hair, nose, eyes, mouth, jaw and other parts each available in 15 different configurations; the list includes some generalities such as "skirt chaser expression" and "cracker hairdo". The result can then be captured, printed out and circulated for maximum amusement. French and English-language versions are available, though the physiognomies are universal. Elsewhere are photo-caricatures of deserving targets such as Bruce Willis and others.

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THE INFORMATION DAILY

CINEMA · THEATRE · EXHIBITIONS · MUSIC · DANCE · LITERATURE · COMEDY · EVENTS · TV & RADIO

NEW FILMS

BEDROOMS & HALLWAYS (15)
Director: Rose Troche
Starring: Kevin McKidd, Jennifer Ehle
Bedrooms & Hallways, the latest offering from the This Life school of British film-making, sees Kevin McKidd's giddy Londoner being put through all manner of romantic hoops in the run-up to his 30th birthday. Kev's orientation arrow spins from gay to straight, his mates offer endless advice, and Simon Callow pops up as a New Agey men's group leader. Rose Troche's smooth direction and McKidd's winsome acting compensate for an often smug and lightweight script.
West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket. Repertory: The Pullman Everyman

A CIVIL ACTION (15)
Director: Steven Zaillian
Starring: John Travolta, Robert Duval
John Travolta's ambulance-chasing lawyer takes a shot at redemption in this complex and frequently absorbing courtroom saga that nonetheless raises inevitable comparisons with Sidney Lumet's *The Verdict*. Cutled from a true story, *A Civil Action* spins a David-and-Goliath-style drama, in which blue-collar lawyer takes head to head with the big corporations who poisoned their water. Zaillian negotiates the legal intricacies with ingenuity.
West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, And local cinemas

THE FACULTY (15)
Director: Robert Rodriguez
Starring: Elijah Wood, Shawn Hatosy
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

HIGH ART (18)
Director: Lisa Cholodenko
Starring: Ally Sheedy, Radha Mitchell
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: Curzon Soho, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green

NÓ (15)
Director: Robert Lepage
Starring: Anne-Marie Cadieux, Alexis Martin
Lepage's third feature obliquely spotlights Quebec's push for independence in 1970 with an absurdist parallel narrative that crosscuts between the trials of a troubled actress and her activist boyfriend. But its fascinating elements fail to gel; its scenes unravel; its reach exceeds its grasp.
West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Barbican Screen

ORGASMO (18)
Director: Trey Parker
Starring: Trey Parker
Orgasmo looks like the love-child of *Boogie Nights* and *Flesh Gordon*: a gambling send-up of the porn industry. Parker stars as a Mormon-turned-skid-flick-superstar; Robin Lynne plays the fiancée who stumbles upon his guilty secret.
West End: Plaza

THE RED VIOLIN (15)
Director: François Girard
Starring: Samuel L. Jackson, Greta Scacchi
Girard's daisy chain of historical vignettes follows the course of a cursed violin down through the centuries. Unfortunately, a thrift-shop budget leaves many of the period backdrops looking like cast-offs from a BBC schools programme. More crucially, Girard's bitty narrative leaves his film labouring in third gear throughout.
West End: Barbican Screen, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Local: Hampstead ABC

SLAM (15)
Director: Marc Levin
Starring: Saul Williams, Sonja Sohn
Even if slam-poetry's clanking rhymes make you want to "slam" the perpetrator's head in a car door, Marc Levin's drama still carries an emotional force. Saul Williams plays an Afro-American Everyman, busted on a drugs charge before finding freedom of expression through his rap stylings. Levin's story is preachy and simplistic, earthy and earnest. Much like slam-poetry itself.
West End: Metro, Ritzy Cinema, Local: Holloway Odeon, New Stratford Picture House

GENERAL RELEASE

AMERICAN HISTORY X (18)
A liberal essay on right-wing fanaticism, this nonetheless indulges in some dubious Nazi chic as it charts the moral slide of a blue-collar racist (Edward Norton). But it does boast a stunning performance from Oscar-nominated Norton. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

ARLINGTON ROAD (15)
Mark Pellington's intriguingly staged paranoia thriller sees Jeff Bridges' college prof becoming suspicious about the antics of his outwardly respectable neighbour (Tim Robbins). West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

AN AUTUMN TALE (CONTE D'AUTOMNE) (U)
Eric Rohmer's new romantic drama is airy and elegant, and as warm as sunshine. West End: Chelsea Cinema, Curzon Soho, Renoir

BLAST FROM THE PAST (12)
Hugh Wilson's Cold War satire begins promisingly enough, but it soon nosedives into brash predictability. With Alicia Silverstone and Brendan Fraser. West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

CENTRAL STATION (15)
Central Station trails Fernanda Montenegro's retired schoolteacher and her abandoned nine-year-old charge on a hunt for the boy's missing father. West End: Curzon Mayfair, Gate Notting Hill, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

FESTEN (THE CELEBRATION) (15)
Filmed using natural light, natural sound and a hand-held camera, *Festen* begins in a rush of pure, unfettered drama. Its rawness is largely contrived, but by the end you're too hooked to care. West End: ABC Panton Street

GODS AND MONSTERS (15)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Screen on the Hill, The Tricycle Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, Local: New Stratford Picture House

HILARY AND JACKIE (15)
Full-throttle playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustains Anand Tucker's warts-and-all biopic of the Du Pré sisters, Hilary (shy, married feminist) and Jacqueline (world-famous cellist). West End: ABC Panton Street

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA E BELLA) (PG)
Roberto Benigni's comedy, in which the writer-director stars as a clowning Jewish bookseller in fascist Italy. West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Gate Notting Hill, Curzon Minima, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, And local cinemas

MIGHTY JOE (PG)
Mighty Joe is a mutant gorilla, who hangs out in the jungles of Africa with his Tarzan-type protector. The whole thing is disposable Disney fluff, yet it boasts a ready charm that's hard to dislike. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, And local cinemas

THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER (15)
Charles Laughton's 1955 drama hinges on a legendary bit of screen villainy from Robert Mitchum as a murderous preacher. West End: Curzon Soho, Renoir

PAYBACK (18)
Revisiting the source that inspired John Boorman's *Point Blank*, this revenge thriller sends its double-crossed-and-left-for-dead anti-hero (Mel Gibson) on a mission to get his money back and to get even. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

PLEASANTVILLE (12)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: Plaza, Warner Village West End

PLUNKETT AND MACLEANE (15)
Plunkett and Macleane are rakish Dick Turpin cutting a dash through 18th-century society. Plunkett (Robert Carlyle) packs a pistol, while Macleane (Joany Lee Miller) romances a debutante (Liv Tyler). Yet instead of a decent plot, director Jake Scott offers noise and pop-memoir visuals. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, And local cinemas

THE RUGRATS MOVIE (U)
Given the small-screen success of the Rugrats (cartoon toddlers up to no good), a feature-length foray was always in the offing. Kids, no doubt, will eat this up. Adults should simply grin and bear it. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, The Tricycle Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Repertory: Riverside Studios Cinema, And local cinemas

TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG)
Franco Zeffirelli's *Tea with Mussolini* ambles through its tale of dotty Brits (Maggie Smith, Judi Dench, Joan Plowright) adrift in Mussolini-era Tuscany. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Repertory: Phoenix Cinema, And local cinemas

THE THIN RED LINE (15)
Terrence Malick's long-awaited return to directing is a fabulous, fever-struck war film. A cast of familiar faces (John Travolta, George Clooney) play second fiddle to the creeping narcotic mood. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Haymarket, Local: Richmond Odeon Studio

WAKING NED (PG)
Good news: Ned, a salt-of-the-earth resident of Tullymore, has won the lottery. Bad news: Ned is dead. Cue a rattle-bag of comedic misadventures as two local scallywags scheme to get their paws on the loot. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End, Virgin Chelsea, Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre, And local cinemas

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Gods and Monsters (15)
A doll speculation on the last days of 1930s horror auteur James Whale (Lin McKellen, right), who is magnetised by the alluring form of his Beverly Hills gardener (Brendan Fraser). Director Bill Condon won an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay.

Pleasantville (12)
Two Nineties teenagers are "sucked" into the world of a favourite Fifties sitcom and begin to exert a dramatic influence on its conformist black-and-white idyll. A witty parable about prejudice and change.

High Art (18)
A portrait of the artist as lesbian screw-up. Lisa Cholodenko's bitterly witty take on New York living (and dying) boasts one of the performances of the year from Ally Sheedy.

The Faculty (15)
Kevin Williamson does it again with this sci-fi tale of alien invaders. Beautiful people, a sharp script, subversive morals. Piper Laurie... Why can't all teen films be like this?

Shakespeare in Love (15)
This enjoyable, Oscar-laden historical romp suggests how romance fared Shakespeare with the inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow (Best Actress) head an impressive cast.

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Good (Donmar Warehouse, London)
Starring Charles Dance, CP Taylor's play about accommodations with conscience is revived in a sensitive production by Michael Grandage. To 22 May

Gross Indecency (Gielgud Theatre, London)
The artfully fractured form of Moises Kaufman's compelling play about Oscar Wilde manages to present the writer in all his complexity. Booking to 5 Jun

Forbidden Broadway (Jermyn Street Theatre, London)
Deliciously spiteful and tremendously funny selection of musical theatre spoofs from Sondheim to *The Lion King* via Elaine Paige. To 16 May

Colombe (Salisbury Playhouse)
Up-and-coming director Jonathan Church signs off at Salisbury with the characteristically bold and imaginative choice of an Anouilh comedy (right) set in Paris's theatrical demi-monde. To 17 April

Uncle Vanya (Mercury Theatre, Colchester)
Gregory Play stars in the Chekhov classic – the second leg of Mercury Theatre's brave experiment in forming a resident ensemble of actors for nine months of the year. To 24 April

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Jackson Pollock (Tate Gallery)
Big, revelatory retrospective for the wild hero of Abstract Expressionism (going on Old Master), legendary for his great drip paintings (right), but virtually unknown here for 40 years. To 6 Jun

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery)
Some of the smartest, most intense portraiture ever. Men as icons of power: women as exquisite *mollusques* of flesh and fabric. To 25 Apr

Henri Michaux (Whitechapel Gallery)
He travelled. He wrote. He took drugs. And, inspired by grief and mescaline, he created amazing, wobbly bobbly wibbly scribbly fine-grain line drawings. To 25 Apr

Andreas Gursky (Dean Gallery, Edinburgh)
Photographs 1994-98: huge, panoramic, high-finish, micro-detailed, digitally manipulated images of our world – stock-exchange floor, cityscape, hotel foyer. Vistas of more than the eye can see. To 16 May

Antony Gormley's 'Field' (firstsite at Culver St, Colchester)
One of the great hits of the decade: a sea of 40,000 pint-sized clay men – obedient, expectant, menacing, and stopping dead in a line at your feet. To 3 May

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC PANTON STREET
(0870-902 0404) • Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm, 10.05pm
A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm
Mighty Joe 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm
Plunkett and Macleane 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm
The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm
Walking Ned 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

ABC PICCADILLY
(0171-437 3561) • Piccadilly
Circus Affliction 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE
(0870-902 0402) • Leicester Square
Bedrooms and Hallways 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm

ABC SWISS COTTAGE
(0870-902 0403) • Leicester Square
Jetties der Stille 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm
Hideous Mink 1.50pm, 4.05pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm
No 1.20pm, 3.10pm, 5.20pm, 7pm, 8.55pm
La Vita e Bella 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC TOTENHAM COURT ROAD
(0870-902 0414) • Tottenham Court Road
Court Road Gods and Monsters 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.55pm, 9.25pm
Payback 1.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm
Plunkett and Macleane 1.25pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.35pm

BARBICAN SCREEN
(0171-638 8891) • Moorgate
N6 6.15pm, 8.40pm
The Red Violin 3pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA
(0171-351 3742) • Sloane Square
Conte d'Autonne 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE
(0171-498 3323) • Clapham
Odeon Bedrooms and Hallways 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm
Gods and Monsters 9.20pm
Plunkett and Macleane 1.25pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.35pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE
(0171-498 3323) • Clapham
Odeon Bedrooms and Hallways 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm
Gods and Monsters 9.20pm
Plunkett and Macleane 1.25pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.35pm

CURZON MAYFAIR
(0171-369 1720) • Green Park
Central Station 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

CURZON SOHO
(0171-734 2255) (12noon-6pm)
• Leicester Square
Conte d'Autonne 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm
Gods and Monsters 4.30pm, 9.30pm
High Art 2pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.20pm
Night of the Hunter 2.15pm, 7.15pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE
(0870-902 0403) • Leicester Square
A Civil Action 12.45pm, 3.25pm, 6.15pm, 9pm
Tea with Mussolini 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm, 11.20pm, 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

GATE NOTTING HILL
(0171-727 4043) • Notting Hill
Gate Central Station 1.35pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm
La Vita e Bella 3.55pm, 8.45pm

METRO
(0171-734 1506) • Piccadilly
Circus Affliction 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9.30pm
Slam 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CURZON MINIMA
(0171-369 1723) • Hyde Park
Corner La Vita e Bella 3pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET
(0171-727 6705) • Notting Hill
Gate Plunkett and Macleane 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.50pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN
(0870-902 0407) • Camden Town
American History X 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.35pm
A Bug's Life 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm, 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm, 12.10pm

ODEON HAYMARKET
(0870-902 0407) • Piccadilly
Circus Affliction 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON
(0870-902 0407) • High Street
Kensington Bedrooms and Hallways 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm
Mighty Joe 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm
Plunkett and Macleane 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm
The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm
Walking Ned 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE
(0870-902 0407) • Leicester Square
Circus Affliction 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
Plunkett and Macleane 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH
(0870-902 0407) • Marble Arch
A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm
Mighty Joe 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm
Plunkett and Macleane 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm
The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm
Walking Ned 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

ODEON MEZZANINE
(0870-902 0407) • Leicester Square
Bedrooms and Hallways 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE
(0870-902 0403) • Leicester Square
Jetties der Stille 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm
Hideous Mink 1.50pm, 4.05pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm
No 1.20pm, 3.10pm, 5.20pm, 7pm, 8.55pm
La Vita e Bella 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ODEON TOTENHAM COURT ROAD
(0870-902 0414) • Tottenham Court Road
Court Road Gods and Monsters 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.55pm, 9.25pm
Payback 1.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm
Plunkett and Macleane 1.25pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.35pm

ODEON WEST END
(0870-902 0407) • Piccadilly
Circus Affliction 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
Plunkett and Macleane 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

ODEON WHITELEYS
(0870-902 0407) • Bayswater
Bedrooms and Hallways 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm
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ODEON WHITELEYS
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Elizabeth 1.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm

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16/THE INFORMATION DAILY

HAMPSTEAD
ABC (0870-902 0413) BR: Belsize Park The Red Violin 1.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm. The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm. Tea with Mussolini 2.45pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm. Vita & Bella 5.45pm, 8.35pm

HARROW
SAFARI CINEMA (0181-426 0303) BR: Harrow-on-the-Hill/Harrow & Wealdstone. Hum Aapke Dil Mein Rehate Hain 8.45pm. Jaanam Samiha Karo 8.45pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) BR: Harrow-on-the-Hill/Harrow & Wealdstone. Hum Aapke Dil Mein Rehate Hain 8.45pm. Jaanam Samiha Karo 8.45pm

WATFORD
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ODEON (0870-902 0413) BR: Streatham Hill American History 8.30pm. A Bug's Life 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm, 10.20pm. The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm. Tea with Mussolini 2.45pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm. Vita & Bella 5.45pm, 8.35pm

STRATFORD
NEW PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR: Stratford. A Bug's Life 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm, 10.20pm. The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm. Tea with Mussolini 2.45pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm. Vita & Bella 5.45pm, 8.35pm

SUTTON
ABC (0870-902 0413) BR: Sutton. A Bug's Life 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm, 10.20pm. The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm. Tea with Mussolini 2.45pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm. Vita & Bella 5.45pm, 8.35pm

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THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week, including times include intervals. — Seats at all prices — Returns only. Matinees — [1] Sun, [2] Tue, [3] Wed, [4] Thu, [5] Fri, [6] Sat, [7] Sun.

● **AMADEUS** David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama. Old Vic Theatre. SE1 [0171-494 5372/494 5373] BR: Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm. £7.50-£30, 180 mins.

● **ANIMAL CRACKERS** Stage version of the Marx Brothers classic from the Royal Exchange Theatre. W1 [0171-494 5045] BR: Piccadilly. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] [7] 3pm. £9.50-£30, 150 mins.

● **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Lullaby family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the enduring fairy tale favourite. Dominion Tottenham Court Road. W1 [0171-656 1888] BR: Tottenham Court Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] [7] 2.30pm. £18.50-£35, 150 mins.

● **BLOOD BROTHERS** Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road. WC2 [0171-369 1733] BR: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm. £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

● **CATS** Andrew Lloyd Webber's long-running musical version of T.S. Eliot's poems. New London Theatre. WC2 [0171-405 0072/404 4079] BR: Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [3] [7] 3pm. £10.50-£35, 165 mins.

● **CHICAGO** Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this Broadway musical. Adelphi Mill Lane. W1 [0171-344 0055] BR: Chancery Lane. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4] [7] 3pm. £16-£36 (incl. booking fee), 130 mins.

● **COPENHAGEN** Drama from Michael Frayn about the events surrounding the discovery of the atom. Duchess Theatre. W1 [0171-494 5075/494 5076] BR: Tottenham Court Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] [7] 2.30pm. £10-£30, 145 mins.

● **DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN** Mark Little stars in this witty and wise comedy about the sexes. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue. W1 [0171-494 5070] BR: Piccadilly. Mon-Thurs 8pm, Fri-Sat 8pm & 8.45pm. £5-£25, concs available.

● **THE GIN GAME** Frith Banbury directs. Lush and Dorothy Tutin in this sensuous and funny drama which centres around a lengthy game of Gin Rummy. Savoy Strand. WC2 [0171-836 8888/8889] BR: Tottenham Court Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] [7] 3pm. £5-£25, 120 mins.

● **GOOD CHARLES** Dance stars in CD Taylor's delectable musical drama. Donmar Warehouse Strand. WC2 [0171-369 1732] BR: Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] [7] 3pm. £14-£22, concs available.

● **GREASE** Energetic stage version of the hit film starring Darren Day. Cambridge Theatre. WC2 [0171-494 5080] BR: Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] [7] 3pm. £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

● **GROSS INDECENCY: THE THREE TRILLS OF MICHAEL** Pennington and William Boydland star in Moises Kaufman's reconstruction of the downfall of the celebrated playwright. Gielgud Theatre. W1 [0171-494 5065] BR: Tottenham Court Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] [7] 2.30pm. £7.50-£29.50.

● **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Daldry's widely acclaimed production of J.B. Priestley's thriller. Garrick Charing Cross Road. WC2 [0171-494 5085] BR: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm. £12-£29.50, 110 mins.

● **MACBETH** Rufus Sewell and Sally Dexter portray thwarted ambition. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue. W1 [0171-494 5040/4041] BR: Piccadilly. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm, ends 5 Jun. £10.50-£28.50, 140 mins.

● **MAMMA MIA!** Lively new musical about a mother's reflections on her daughter's impending wedding day, accompanied by ABBA's back catalogue. Prince Edward Old Compton Street. W1 [0171-447 5400] BR: Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] [7] 3pm. £15-£35.

● **THE MEMORY OF WOMAN** Alison Steadman and Julia Sawalha star in this touching comedy about three sisters returning home for their mother's funeral. Vaudeville Strand. WC2 [0171-836 9887] BR: Chancery Lane. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] [7] 3pm. £8-£27.50, 120 mins.

● **LES MISÉRABLES** Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's novel of masterpieces. Palace Theatre. W1 [0171-494 5050] BR: Piccadilly. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] [7] 2.30pm. £7-£35, 195 mins.

● **MISS SAIGON** Long-running musical which retells the Modern Butterfly tragedy to the war in Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. W1 [0171-494 5060] BR: Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] [7] 3pm. £8.50-£35, 165 mins.

● **THE MUSESTRAP** Agatha Christie's evergreen whodunnit. St Martin's West Street. WC2 [0171-836 1443] BR: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 3pm. £10-£24.50, 135 mins.

● **OKLAHOMA!** Maureen Lipman stars in the National's acclaimed production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's cowboy versus farmland musical. Lyceum Theatre. WC2 [0171-494 5045] BR: Tottenham Court Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] [7] 2.30pm, ends 26 Jun. £10-£35, 180 mins.

● **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Theatre. SW1 [0171-494 5000/494 5001] BR: Piccadilly. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] [7] 3pm. £10-£35, 150 mins.

● **THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE** Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason star in Neil Simon's comedy about a mid-life crisis. Theatre Royal, Haymarket. SW1 [0171-930 8800] BR: Piccadilly. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] [7] 3pm. £10-£32.50.

● **RENT** Musical inspired by La Bohème and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Theatre. WC2 [0171-494 5045] BR: Tottenham Court Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] [7] 3pm. £12.50-£32.50, 160 mins.

● **ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE** Olivier: Candide Voltaire's work of comic genius featuring an all-star cast and Bernstein's heady score. In rep. tonight 7.15pm, ends 22 May. Cottesloe. E12-618. Olivier: E8-227, South Bank. SE1 [0171-452 3000] BR: Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] [7] 3pm. £10-£32.50, 160 mins.

● **THE BARBICAN** The Winter's Tale. Anthony Sher stars in this tale of love and betrayal. In rep. tonight 7.15pm, ends 6 May. Barbican. EC2 [0171-638 8891] BR: Barbican.

● **THE PIT** Goodnight Children. Everywhere a teenage encounter returns home after the death of his parents in Richard Nelson's moving drama. In rep. tonight 7.15pm, ends 27 Apr. 140 mins. Barbican. W1 [0171-494 5045] BR: Tottenham Court Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] [7] 2.30pm. £10-£32.50, 135 mins.

● **SACRED HEART** New writing from Nick Mahoney in which two friends struggle to come to terms with their past and daunting futures. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors). SW1 [0171-494 5045] BR: Tottenham Court Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] [7] 2.30pm. £10-£32.50, 135 mins.

● **SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER** 1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Garcia. London Palladium. W1 [0171-494 5045] BR: Tottenham Court Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] [7] 2.30pm. £10-£32.50, 135 mins.

● **STARLIGHT EXPRESS** Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit-tech roller-musical. Apollo Victoria Theatre. SW1 [0171-416 6070] BR: Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] [7] 3pm. £12.50-£30, 150 mins.

● **SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER** Tennessee Williams' chilling tale of a wealthy widow determined to avenge the mysterious death of her late husband. In rep. tonight 7.15pm, ends 24 Apr. £10-£32.50, concs available. The Friers [0171-277 7877].

● **THE WEIR** Concorde Theatre's drama set in Ireland, which examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at The Duke of York's). SW1 [0171-494 5045] BR: Tottenham Court Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] [7] 2.30pm. £10-£32.50, 135 mins.

● **WEST SIDE STORY** New production of Bernstein's classic musical, attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit. Prince of Wales Theatre. W1 [0171-836 9887] BR: Tottenham Court Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] [7] 3pm. £18.50-£35, 160 mins.

● **WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND** Lloyd Webber's musical based on the film of the same name. Aldwych Theatre. WC2 [0171-416 6000/416 6001] BR: Tottenham Court Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] [7] 3pm. £10-£32.50, 120 mins.

● **THE WOMAN IN BLACK** Susan Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Theatre. WC2 [0171-494 5085] BR: Tottenham Court Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm. £8.50-£23.50, 110 mins.

● **THE WHITE TRAIL** The White Devil. Paul Kerryson directs John Webster's classic Jacobean tragedy. 12-16 Apr. 7.30pm, ends 30 Apr. £6.50-£14.50, concs available. Belgrave Gate [0116-253 9797].

● **WATERMILL** Theatre Dangerous. Corner JB Priestley's thriller about a suicide which is not all it seems. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, ends 8 May. £6-£16.50. Bagnor [01635-46044].

● **KEY THEATRE** Samuel Pepys - The Secret Diaries. Lively musical play inspired by the famous journals. Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, Fri & Sat 8pm. Ends 17 Apr. £9.50-£11.50. Embankment Road [01733-552439].

● **SALISBURY** SALISBURY PLAYHOUSE. Columbo Jean Anouilh's stylish evocation of life in the demi-monde of the Paris theatre. 12-14 Apr. 7.30pm, ends 17 Apr. £8-£15, concs available. Mulhouse Lane [01722-320333].

● **STRATFORD-UPON-AVON** The Other Place. Orlando. Ayla Bohn's Restoration novel is adapted by Biji Brandon. Re-telling the tragic romance of the West African Prince. 12-17 Apr. 7.30pm, ends 6 Oct. £10-£20. Southern Lane [01899-25623].

● **ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE** Othello. Anthony Hopkins directs Ray Fensom and Zoe Walker. 12-17 Apr. 7.30pm, ends 7 Oct. £5-£39. Waterside [01789-25623].

● **SWAN THEATRE** Tales from Ovid. Tim Supple directs Ted Hughes' version of Ovid's sublime epic poem. 12-17 Apr. 7.30pm, ends 7 Oct. £5-£36. Waterside [01789-25623].

● **WIMBLEDON STUDIO** Frankenstein. Brutal Fane's production adapted from Mary Shelley's Gothic horror novel. The Broadway. SW1 [0181-540 0362] BR: Wimbledon. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, ends 24 Apr. £8-£9, concs £5-£6.

● **BOX OFFICE** Now Booking. FOLLOWING LAST year's sell-out stint, MTV's Five Night Stand returns to the Shepherd's Bush Empire with headliners Supergrass (below), Ocean Colour Scene and Reef. Shepherd's Bush Empire, London W12 [0171-771 2000] 9-14 May.

● **BOX OFFICE** Last Chance to Book. FINAL WEEK to see the vast canvases (below) of the great Impressionist Claude Monet, which were inspired by the gardens and lily ponds at Giverny. Royal Academy of Arts, London W1 [0171-300 8000/413 1717] 8am to 6pm, to 18 Apr.

THE INFORMATION ON
A Civil Action

What Is It?

Steven Zaillian's complex courtroom saga about a personal-injury lawyer who stumbles on his conscience. Based on Jonathan Harr's account of a real case in Massachusetts, the film recalls how parents of children with leukaemia went in search of compensation from companies who had dumped toxic waste on their doorstep.

Who's In It?

John Travolta (right) is suitably cocky as attorney Jan Schlicht

